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Communist Parties Meet To Plan Restoration of USSR

LD2105165894 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 21 May 94

[Video report by correspondent Yelena Masyuk]

[Text] [Masyuk] Today, the followers of Lenin's cause met in Gorkiy Leninskiye at a closed coordinating meeting of Communist Parties active on the territory of the former USSR. Oleg Shenin, the chairman of the Council of the Union of CPSU Communist Parties, noted in his opening speech that the dictatorial and criminal regimes in the republics of the former USSR are gaining strength and if communists are idle, then, according to Shenin, the people will not forgive them.

[Shenin] All the program documents of all the Communist Parties say that they will strive to restore a single union state.

[Masyuk] At today's conference the leaders of Communist organizations discussed two issues. Firstly, the social and political situation on the territory of the USSR and methods to strengthen the Communist movement. The second question—a draft concept for restoring a renewed union. The concept's author is Yegor Ligachev.

[Ligachev] The concept contains the main principles for the restoration of a single union state in accordance with the will of the people.

[Masyuk] Can it be said that the Russian Communist Party is the leader among the Communist Parties of the CIS countries today?

[Gennadiy Zyuganov, Russian Communist Party leader] There is no leading, directing party. There is unity of action.

[Masyuk] In the intervals between sessions a small number of Communists visited the local Lenin Museum.

Why did you decide to all meet together in Gorkiy Leninskiye?

[Shenin] I think that it was so as once again to remind all those who came here and ourselves of the responsibility we bear toward the founders of our parties.

[Masyuk] Yelena Masyuk, Aleksey Chervyakov, the NTV television company. [video shows: meeting in progress, interviews]

Former Commander on Division of Black Sea Fleet

LD2105133394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1109 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 21 TASS—Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, former commander-in-chief of the allied armed forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, believes that the Black Sea Fleet should be divided between all the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) rather than between Russia and Ukraine.

Expressing his private opinion in a speech over Russian television on Saturday, he said that, since Ukraine did not join the CIS Treaty on Collective Security, it should be given one-eleventh part of the fleet.

The rest of the fleet should be used to protect the CIS interests in the Black Sea area.

Shaposhnikov also suggested that if any CIS country is unable to finance its part of the fleet, it can hand it over under the control of any other CIS country and receive for it a compensation in the form of oil, coal and other minerals.

New CIS Economic Coordinating Body Deemed Necessary

LD1905215994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1927 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Russian participants in the CIS consultative bodies for cooperation in different spheres of the economy decided at their meeting today that a coordinating-consultative council must be created under the Russian Ministry for Cooperation with the CIS states.

This council will implement the economic strategy of Russia towards the CIS states.

The council will be headed by Russian Minister for Cooperation with the CIS Vladimir Mashschits. It will also include representatives of the Central Bank of Russia, the Customs Committee, the CIS Inter-State Bank currently being established, other CIS bodies and the directors of the Russian big state and private companies.

The council will concentrate on assistance to the CIS transnational financial and industrial structures and on coordination of activities of Russian departments in these spheres.

The council was given the right to submit its proposals and recommendations on implementation of the treaty on establishment of the Economic Union to the government. The appropriate agreement was signed in September, 1993.

Deputy Minister for Cooperation Marat Khusnutdinov said the main problem for the CIS states was that on non-payments. The debt of the neighboring countries to Russia for the delivery of energy supplies is 2.5 trillion rubles.

The first meeting of the new council planned for June will focus on possible establishment of a payment union, conversion of all CIS currencies, development of border trade and simplification of the customs procedures.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 20 May

LD2005120994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1143 GMT 20 May 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on a new spiral of confrontation between Simferopol and Kiev:

"The first session of the newly-elected Crimean parliament, resumed on May 19, began in a stormy manner. Before an agenda was formulated, the floor was given to Valeriy Kuznetsov, Crimean acting minister of the interior, at the request of President Yuriy Meshkov.

"Kuznetsov told the deputies that a plane with Colonel-General Valentin Nedrigailo [Valentyn Nedryhaylo], Ukraine's first deputy minister of the interior, and special-purpose troops on board had landed in Simferopol on the night from May 18 to 19.

"An unambiguous military coup is looming with the dismissal of Crimean Acting Interior Minister Kuznetsov from his post, speakers at the session maintained."

NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA (NEW DAILY NEWSPAPER) on the Crimean parliament session:

"The rather smooth session of the Crimean parliament was unexpectedly interrupted when Major-General Valeriy Kuznetsov, Crimean acting interior minister, took the floor, telling the deputies that a plane with General Nedrigailo and 15 special-purpose troops had secretly arrived in Simferopol on the night of May 18 to 19. The unwelcome visitors immediately tried to seize the Crimean Interior Ministry building. But they attempt was repulsed."

The newspaper SEGOGNYA (TODAY) points out that, despite denials by the press centre of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry and the Navy, a ranking officer at the headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet confirmed information that Ukrainian National Guard and special- purpose units, at an aggregate strength at about 1,000, had landed near Sevastopol in two groups, at Belbek and Chersonesus Cape airfields, after which they dispersed among Ukrainian naval units.

"The officer said a Ukrainian field military hospital had been set up in Chernobayevka village in Kherson region. Hospital personnel do not conceal from anyone that they prepare to receive the wounded with bullet and shrapnel wounds."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) on possibility of seizure of Black Sea Fleet facilities by Ukrainian troops:

"According to data available with the editorial office, Ukrainian armed forces consider the possibility of yet another action to seize Black Sea Fleet facilities, this time those of the Izmail-based brigade of river ships.

"The First Ukrainian Air Mobile Brigade, which is notorious for its involvement in the seizure of a Black Sea Fleet naval unit based in Odessa, is taking a number of preparatory measures in this respect.

"To all appearances, the Ukrainian Defence Ministry has not abandoned hopes to resolve Black Sea Fleet problems by force, in defiance of the agreements, reached by the presidents of Russia and Ukraine in Moscow on April 15. The command of the brigade of river ships and local authorities have been warned about a provocation which is being prepared (and which, according to the newspaper SEGODNYA, is slated for May 25—note by ITAR-TASS)."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports that an Azerbaijani Defence Ministry delegation, led by Minister Mamadrafi Mammadov, returned to Moscow on May 19 to carry on the discussion at the Russian Defence Ministry about a ceasefire accord in Nagorno-Karabakh and disengagement of the warring sides.

Mammadov is due to meet Pavel Grachev on Friday. The Azerbaijani delegation, after consultations in Baku, suggests that the agreement (which has already been signed by the defence ministers of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh) be visaed in a package with an overall settlement plan which envisages a time-frame for the withdrawal of Karabakh troops from occupied territories".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an article by Zbigniew Brzezinski, former assistant to the U.S. President on national security affairs, about an erroneous U.S. strategy with regard to Russia.

For a number of years, U.S. policy with regard to Russia fluctuated between indulging in wishful thinking and cold realism. A dose of tough geopolitics, mixed with friendly sentiments towards the Russian people and also with sympathy for the aspirations of non-Russians, stands much more chances to fashion a worthy continuation for an earlier and historically successful strategy of deterrence, Mr. Brzezinski writes.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI runs an interview with Yevgeniy Kozhokin, director of the Russian Institute for Strategic Studies, who singles out the following main areas of the institute's research: Russia's national security, the ex-Soviet states, European security, Russia's economic priorities, military policy and defence industry conversion to civilian production, and ecology.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries the first instalment of an extensive interview with former Russian Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy who makes an evaluation of the October 1993 events.

In the second instalment of the interview, which is to be published in the newspaper's next issue, he describes in detail the "Lefortovo period".

TRUD runs an interview with Nikolay Gonchar, head of the Federation Council's committee on budget and finance, and former chairman of the Moscow city Council.

"We have no such danger as fascism (this notion has been taken liberties with). The danger is in something else: The people begin to wait for a dictatorship and want a 'strong arm'. The wounded sense of pride and the humiliation of the country are the main reasons. Not even the decline in the people's living standards", Gonchar said.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 21 May

LD2105064794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0616 GMT 21 May 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, May 21 (ITAR-TASS)—The ROSSIISKIE VESTI newspaper prints a series of articles by Russian intellectuals under the general heading "Who Will Not Kill War, Will Be Killed by War". They explain why they signed the social accord treaty.

Here is what actor Mikhail Ulyanov, chairman of the Theatrical Artists' Union, says in this connection: "Men of culture and arts are sons and daughers of their people, who sing their songs, guess their thoughts, protect their interests and laud the homeland.

"But they need peace to do all this. If it brings our society even by a jot to wisdom, calm and accord, we must sign this document."

Noting that ceremonies of signing the above treaty continue in the Kremlin, the TRUD newspaper deplors that events which took place in the country last week, "happened not in line" with this agreement.

Writing about the declared all-Russian strike of civil aviators (although most flights were made according to schedule), the newspaper notes that even if politicians agree on a temporary moratorium in the struggle for power, "it is highly improbable that armistice will come into effect in the social sphere in the near future, since the social and economic situation is not improving."

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper singles out the events in and outside the Crimea. "If a conflict flares up, it will eclipse in its scale everything we encountered before," the newspaper claims in its commentary. "Because it will inevitably involve the Black Sea Fleet which has not been divided up to this time."

The newspaper expresses hope that the worst forecasts "will not come true and that the recent contacts between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents will calm down the situation".

At the same time, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA draws a parallel between the situation in the Crimea and the one which preceded "the bloody and protracted wars in Karabakh, Abkhazia and the Dniester area".

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA calls attention to a decision taken on Friday by the Crimean parliament to reinstate the constitution of 1992, pointing that its many provisions are at variance with the Ukrainian Constitution and the hitherto operating fundamental law of the Crimea Republic.

The newspaper carries an interview with Lilya Budzhurova, a Crimean parliament member from the Council of Crimean Tatars, claiming that Crimean parliamentarians "made the first step to destabilise the political situation not only in the Crimea but in Ukraine as whole".

According to Budzhurova, this "will be a conflict not only between the Crimea and Ukraine: Russia will be also drawn into it".

The same newspaper concentrates on preliminary results of a successful operation carried out by law enforcement officers on may 19 to free hostages from a currency exchange point captured by criminals on the Frunzenskaya Embankment in Moscow.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper notes in an article about privileges that the government appropriated over nine times more funds than last year "for the medical centre at the Russian Government", despite a very modest increase in outlays for the country's public health.

Nearly 24 billion roubles or 6.7 per cent of all appropriations for public health, the newspaper continues, "will be used to treat the bureaucratic elite of the poor state". KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA sums up by saying that "the struggle started against privileges can be regarded as completed ... with a victory of the privileged".

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA prints a full text of explanations given by former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy at the Moscow prosecutor's office in connection with directions given by acting Prosecutor-General of Russia Ilyushenko to examine legality of public statements by opposition leaders on May 9 and 14, current.

The newspaper singles out Rutskoy's words that to change radically the present situation in the country, "we now need a new idea, a spiritual and moral idea meeting the interests of people and homeland".

In turn, the PRAVDA newspaper summarises the above explanations by Rutskoy where he claims that "President Yeltsin's autocratic regime is now reigning the country".

The newspaper features an article on unemployment in Russia. "Although 1,400,000 people receive officially unemployment benefits in Russia, according to various but concurring estimates, between 15 and 20 million people (20-25 per cent of all labour force) work part-time or do not receive wages at all," PRAVDA writes.

Yeltsin Warns Kravchuk Not To Use Force in Crimea

LD2005175994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today, Russian President Boris Yeltsin answered journalists' questions about the situation in Crimea:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] I spoke with President Kravchuk of Ukraine yesterday. We discussed these issues. I gave a warning and he promised that Ukraine will not use any force whatsoever in Crimea. He promised me this, and we hope that the president, a respectable person, will keep his promise. [end recording]

Further on Yeltsin Warning

LD2005201894 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1940 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Russian president Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin today answered journalists' questions concerning the situation in Crimea.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] I spoke with Ukraine President Kravchuk yesterday. We discussed these issues. I gave a warning and he promised that Ukraine will not use any force whatsoever in Crimea. He promised me this, and we hope that the president, a respectable person, will keep his promise. Crimea is a sovereign republic and it has a right to make its own decisions. And it will make those decisions—but it is vital that neither we nor Ukraine should interfere. [end recording]

Chernomyrdin Holding Emergency Conference on Crimea

LD2305081094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0802 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow May 23 TASS—The Russian prime minister is holding an emergency conference on the latest developments in the Crimea, the press service of the Russian Government informed ITAR- TASS.

The press service has been unable to specify when Russian- Ukrainian negotiations on the subject at the prime ministerial level will begin today.

The political situation in the Crimea has been growing increasingly tense since the Crimean Parliament passed a law to restore the constitution of the Republic of Crimea adopted on May 6, 1992. The constitution provides for greater independence of the peninsula in relations with Ukraine.

Kiev regards this move as a manifestation of separatism and a threat to Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Grachev Warns of 'Major Conflict' in Crimea

LD2005152394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1422 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] There is the danger of a major conflict in Crimea unless the situation is resolved at the negotiating table, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev told visiting French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe.

He spoke of having information about the redeployment of Ukrainian troops, including commando units, in Crimea. Some reports say Ukrainian troops deployed in Odessa are being put on alert.

Calls Situation 'Potentially Explosive'

LD2005200994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev regards the concentration of Ukrainian troops in Crimea as potentially explosive. According to the information coming in, the defense minister said, about 400 Ukrainian special purpose troops are concentrated in the airport area near Simferopol. Five hundred Ukrainian servicemen have been deployed at the Cape of Khersones and, in the area of Sukhaya Bolka, on the eastern outskirts of Sevastopol—200 servicemen. When troops are being brought in and concentrated in an area, Pavel Grachev said, they can start military activities at any moment. The minister gave assurances that he had given the order for decisive action to stop all provocations directed against the Black Sea Fleet, regardless of who commits them.

Predicts Armed Conflict

MK2105071694 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 21 May 94 p 1

[Pavel Felgengauer report under the "Crimea" rubric with the general heading: "General Grachev: 'If Troops Are Being Pulled Up, an Armed Conflict Is Virtually Unavoidable'"]

[Text] Russian Defense Minister General Grachev believes that the Crimea situation could cause "a serious conflagration. If troops are being moved up, an armed conflict is virtually inevitable." The Russian Defense Ministry has been receiving reports about the concentration of Ukrainian troops in Crimea. There are around 400 Ukrainian special-purpose troops in the area of the Belbek airport (10 km north of Simferopol); 500 contract servicemen landed on the cape of Khersones; and 200 Ukrainian national guards (primarily from Ukraine's western oblasts) are on Sevastopol's eastern outskirts

(Sukharnaya Balka). Reinforcements amounting to another 200 men are also expected.

Russian intelligence agencies are checking reports that the 1st Ukrainian Mobile Air Brigade in Bolgrad has been put on full alert. Currently the brigade is under the command of General Babich (former chief of staff of the 98th Airborne Division). General Grachev knows him as "a competent and decisive officer" who is "capable of a great deal."

Black Sea Fleet units have been ordered to "stop any provocations in the most decisive fashion." Presently, facilities of the Crimean Internal Affairs Ministry have been protected by special-purpose army units and the OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] of the Crimean Internal Affairs Ministry.

Foreign Ministry: No Objection to UN Reviewing Crimea Issue

LD2305091694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Galina Sidorova, political advisor to the Russian foreign minister, said Moscow has no objection to the Crimean issue being reviewed in the United Nations. This is what Ukraine wants, Sidorova told journalists in Murmansk. Russia, Galina Sidorova stressed, wants Kiev and Simferopol to settle all contentions using exclusively political methods, INTERFAX reports.

Crimean Supreme Council Chairman Gives Briefing

LD2105192094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1737 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] The chairman of the Crimean parliament said it was the duty of the legislature to restore Crimea's constitution of May 6, 1992, and thereby put the peninsula's relations with Ukraine on the basis of a treaty. "I cannot see any other option—there is simply none," Sergey Tsekov said at a news conference in Simferopol on Saturday.

He said that, as the legislature discussed the matter, some of its members made more drastic proposals, namely for a referendum on the status of the peninsula. Restoration of the 1992 constitution is "the mildest form of relations with Ukraine," Tsekov said.

Answering a question by Interfax-Ukraine, he said the ultimate objective of the Russia Bloc is to make Crimea an independent state and then unify it with Russia, although the peninsula might be "reunified" with Russia "together with Ukraine."

"Many of the problems, above all economic ones, can only be solved by the integrating Ukraine with Russia," Tsekov said.

He said nothing today poses a threat to Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Asked about troop movements in Crimea, Tsekov said, "There are such movements, but they are normal routine troop movements. No emergency measures have been planned."

He ruled out that the Crimean parliament would be dissolved, for that, he said, would be illegal. "There are sensible people" in Ukraine's leadership, who "will not allow an aggravation of the relations with Crimea," he said.

Yeltsin Aide Apportions Blame for Crimean Crisis

LD2305091294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2109 GMT 22 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 23 May (ITAR-TASS)—"The vacation season in Crimea has begun." This was how Emil Pain, head of the conflict forecasting department of the analysis center under the Russian president, reacted to an ITAR-TASS report about 29 Ukrainian armored personnel carriers appearing on the outskirts of Simferopol.

In an interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent the analyst noted that the situation around Crimea is getting close to a critical point. "All the signs of an uncompromising fight for the integrity of the state are there. But strong-arm methods in taming separatists proved unsuccessful in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Serbia alike," Emil Pain said. "But history never teaches anything," he noted.

Unlike many experts, Emil Pain puts the blame for the crisis not only on Ukrainian but also on Crimean politicians. He believes it is possible to speak of the "irresponsibility" of Yuriy Meshkov's supporters, who could have carried out the Crimean authorities' policy without a confrontation with Ukraine.

"It was inexpedient to make a decision to change the Crimean Constitution on the eve of the vacation season, because its success could have improved the economic situation in the peninsula," the scientist believes. But he thinks that "Yuriy Meshkov seems to have forgotten that Abkhazia's beaches are no worse than Crimea's beaches, and that no one would wish to spend a vacation in an area of hostilities."

The political scientist stated with alarm that most armed conflicts have begun with a change in a certain territory's political status. "This time there should not be a military clash, because the price to pay for it would be not the future of Crimea but global security," he said.

Ministry Reports Kozyrev-Zlenko Letters on Crimea

LD2105163194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1527 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 21 May. (ITAR-TASS)—The Press and Information Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry today distributed the following report:

"On 20 May Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko sent the Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev a letter informing him of the decision adopted by Crimea's Supreme Soviet to restore the constitution of the Republic of Crimea of 6 May 1992, which he believes could pose a threat to Ukraine's internal political stability and cause tension in relations between Russia and Ukraine.

"The letter underlines that, in the event of a further escalation of the situation, Ukraine retains the right to take all necessary measures to safeguard unconditionally the state's territorial integrity, in accordance with its Constitution and law and in observance of the norms of international law.

"In a reply message, Kozyrev says that the possibility of tension arising in Russian-Ukrainian relations because of Crimea cannot but cause concern and he agrees that international legal principles should be observed everywhere. But no less important is respect for the sovereign will of the peoples, restraint, and the need to exclude the use of force. All the problems arising between Ukraine and the sovereign republic of Crimea—as part of Ukraine—should be settled exclusively by political means.

"The situation in Crimea confirms once again the need for settling as soon as possible the questions of the Black Sea Fleet, proceeding from the accords between the presidents of both countries. Russia is ready for this, the letter from A.V.Kozyrev says in conclusion."

Foreign Ministry Sources on Ukraine-Crimea Confrontation

PM2005191794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 May 94 p 3

[Maksim Yusin report: "Kiev Has No Grounds for Accusing Kremlin of Inflaming Conflict in Crimea, Russian Foreign Ministry Believes"]

[Text] "Our stance regarding Crimea remains immutable. The peninsula is an inalienable part of Ukraine. We are ready to develop economic relations with the Republic of Crimea without placing those relations on a political level," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Krylov told IZVESTIYA.

According to Krylov, Moscow is interested in a political solution of the problems between Kiev and Simferopol. On the morning of 20 May the Russian Foreign Ministry still had no clear picture of what was actually happening on the peninsula. "We were receiving contradictory information," Krylov said. "If the reports that only 'planned exercises' are being carried out in the Crimea are corroborated, then, given the tense situation, advance notification was necessary to avoid any unnecessary fuss."

Another high-ranking Foreign Ministry staffer, who wished to remain anonymous, voiced the hope that the Crimean leadership will show restraint and will not take matters to the point of confrontation with Ukraine: "According to the information at our disposal, Yuriy Meshkov has adopted a moderate stance and has advised the Supreme Council to defer examination of the question of restoring the Constitution of Crimea in the form it was adopted 6 May 1992." Moscow fears that if parliament does nevertheless go ahead and makes changes to the Constitution, this will result in a new bout of tension. IZVESTIYA has been given to understand that Moscow is in favor of the Crimean legislators' deferring examination of this explosive issue.

According to information from Smolensk Square [Russian Federation Foreign Ministry], the diplomatic departments of Russia and Ukraine are in constant contact. According to our Foreign Ministry, Kiev has no grounds at all for accusing the Kremlin of inflaming the conflict: Both President Yeltsin and the Foreign Ministry have repeatedly stated that Russia has no territorial claims on Ukraine and will not interfere in its internal affairs. At the same time IZVESTIYA's interlocutors did not deny that the increased number of trips made to the Crimea by Duma deputies, who sometimes make provocative statements, is destabilizing the situation.

Minister Views Ukrainian 'Provocation' in Crimea

LD2305080994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0435 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Mikhail Shevtsov and Andrey Palariya]

[Text] Moscow, 23 May—This morning Internal Affairs Minister Valeriy Kuzentsov announced that the situation in Crimea is being monitored. At the same time, he said, yesterday the Ukrainian minister of internal affairs sent all town and rayon departments telegrams with orders to obey instructions from Kiev only. Valeriy Kuznetsov assessed this step by the Ukrainian leadership as a provocation aimed at destabilizing the situation on the peninsula.

The duty officer of the Black Sea Fleet staff told TASS that, following the completion of routine exercise, all units and subunits of the fleet are in their permanent places of deployment. They are not carrying out any maneuvers at present.

Shakhray Proposes Tatarstan Scenario for Crimea

LD2305113494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1108 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow May 23 TASS—Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray and President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev are going to propose to Ukraine and the Crimea to settle their dispute like Moscow and Tatarstan did.

Shakhray told reporters on Monday that the example of Tatarstan can show to the leaderships of Ukraine and the Crimea "how it is possible to settle relations between a strong centre and a strong region".

In Tatarstan secessionist moods were strong until Moscow agreed to sign a bilateral share-power agreement with it. Kazan, in its turn, agreed to participate in elections to the new Russian parliament which failed in the republic mostly because the local leadership was against them.

"We want to remind the Ukrainian and Crimean leaders that relations between Moscow and Kazan could have developed along a very bad scenario in their time, but Russian and Tatar leaders had common sense enough to embark on the path of compromises and concessions", Shakhray said and added that the situation "normalised politically and economicaly" after the share-power deal between Moscow and Kazan was reached.

LDPR Protests Against Ukraine 'Attack' in Crimea

LD2005205394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1815 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's nationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) has expressed indignation over Ukrainian troops' "attack on the building of the Interior Ministry of (Ukrainian autonomous republic of) Crimea in order to change it into a so-called Central Department for Crimea of the Interior Ministry of Ukraine."

"Your government, Mr. Kravchuk, has already plundered Ukraine and run down what was a rich land," the LDPR says in a statement received by Interfax on Friday. "Now it is stealing Russian and Turkmen gas and oil transported through your territory."

Kravchuk "wishes to sell the Black Sea Fleet (disputed by Russia and Ukraine) for scrap metal, to sell everything that can be sold, in order to flee the devastated country when its people rise and demand reunification with Russia," the party says.

Grachev To Propose Alternative Partnership Plan to NATO

LD2005140694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1316 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—"Russia is interested in a more serious and substantial format of relations with NATO than the Partnership for Peace program envisions," Russian Defence Minister, Army General Pavel Grachev announced today.

"This approach, in our view, rules out surprises and unilateral measures, especially of military character, in the fields in which we must cooperate as closely as possible," General Grachev said after his meeting with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe.

"We will put forth another plan for partnership, which has already been approved by the president of Russia," Grachev indicated. Its basic principles consist in Russia's joining the program with account being taken of its significant role and place in the European security system and the United Nations. In addition, Russia cannot limit itself to the signing of the standard framework document, the minister said. "We shall work to prepare a larger-scale program of cooperation between Russia and NATO, based on parameters of practical participation in its implementation," the Russian minister stressed.

These parameters are political partnership, partnership in the military and other fields. On their basis, "we shall propose drawing up a large-scale program for Russia's cooperation with Partnership for Peace. Only if they are approved, Russia will be able to sign the NATO program," Grachev said.

The minister said he would also set out in his report at NATO headquarters in Brussels on May 24 Russia's views on prospects for the development of the European security system. The accent will be placed on the need to ensure the leading role of the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in the process of forming a regional security system for the Commonwealth member-states within the collective security treaty, as well as on Russia's vision of the main parameters of cooperation with the North Atlantic alliance.

Grachev reiterated that his main objective was to tell NATO about the main provisions of the Russian military doctrine.

Further on Grachev Plan

LD2205162894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1501 GMT 22 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow May 22 TASS—On his way to Brussels, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev is to make on Monday a stop-over in the town of Wunsdorf in west Germany. While in Wunsdorf, he is scheduled to visit the headquarters of Russia's Western Army Group in Germany, as well as to meet with officials of the Deutsche Bank to discuss the funding of Russian troop withdrawal from Germany, a spokesman for the Russian Defence Ministry told TASS.

On Tuesday, the Russian defence minister will arrive in Brussels. Later in the day, he is to address the NATO leadership and defence ministers with a report on the basic principles of Russia's military doctrine.

On Wednesday, Grachev is scheduled to have a series of bilateral meetings with NATO defence ministers, including with his U.S. counterpart William Perry. He will also attend a joint meeting of NATO defence ministers, which is to concentrate on European security and on prospects for NATO's political and military cooperation with Central and East European states, as well as with the CIS. At this meeting, the Russian defence minister is expected to expound on Russia's attitude towards NATO's Partnership for Peace programme.

On the eve of his visit to Brussels, Grachev told reporters that Russia was interested in a more "serious and substantial format of relations with NATO than the one envisaged by the Partnership for Peace programme".

"We will offer an alternative scheme of partnership, already approved by the Russian president. Its essence is that Russia should join the programme with due regard for its significant role and place in the system of European security and the United Nations", the Russian defence minister pointed out.

Russia attaches much importance to Grachev's upcoming visit to Brussels. President Boris Yeltsin expects the NATO leadership to recognize the special status of Russia as a great power. This "can be done either through a protocol within the Partnership for Peace framework, or through a separate bilateral document between NATO and the Russian Federation", Yeltsin told TASS on Friday.

From May 26, the Russian defence minister will start an official visit to Belgium. He is due to meet his Belgian counterpart Leo Delcroix and to visit some military installations. On May 27, Grachev will return to Moscow.

Yeltsin Expects NATO To Grant Special Status to Russia

LD2005135994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1251 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—The recognition by the NATO leadership of Russia's special status as a great power may come either in a protocol within the frame of the Partnership for Peace program or in a separate bilateral document signed between the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the Russian Federation, President Yeltsin told ITAR-TASS in the Kremlin today.

According to President Boris Yeltsin, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev will leave for Brussels soon to solve the problem through talks with the NATO leaders.

Security Adviser Views Troop Withdrawal, PFP

AU2005163194 Hamburg DIE WOCHE in German 19 May 94 p 19

[Interview with Russian President Boris Yeltsin's security adviser General Valeriy Manilov by Andrzey Rybak; place and date not given: "Cudgels Out!"]

[Text] [Rybak] President Yeltsin returned contentedly from his trip to Germany. Are the Russian people sharing the joy about the withdrawal of his troops from Germany?

[Manilov] The soldiers' withdrawal from Germany is certainly causing mixed feelings in the people. There are people who do not want to put up with it. But on the serious political level there are no doubts: The withdrawal is an important and positive step—an expression and part of the new Russian geopolitics. When Russia gave German unification its blessing, all of us were aware that it had to be followed by the armed forces' withdrawal.

[Rybak] At the same time, however, U.S. troops remain in Germany. Is Russia thus abandoning the principle of parity in geopolitics?

[Manilov] In former times, we insisted on parity in every respect—and at any price. We counted every gun, every tank, and every nuclear warhead—and compared our figures with those of the Americans and NATO. When we lagged behind, the arms production had to be increased. But the world cannot be pressed any longer into such primitive schemes. We understood that and agreed to the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, without insisting on a similar step for NATO.

[Rybak] Will Russia, with the troop withdrawal, not lose a joker in the game about the Americans' withdrawal?

[Manilov] I think that it is time to put an end to the policy of cudgels. We no longer want to threaten with our arms potential. But the other side also has to make concessions. We say: "One cannot untie a knot with one hand." Least of all one that is so firmly tied as European security policy.

[Rybak] Before Germany's political unification, it was stated that NATO will not spread to the East. However, the GDR area was immediately integrated. Was Russia cheated?

[Manilov] Indeed, NATO did not keep its promise. This was a bitter experience. And not the last one. There are, for example, the bombing attacks in Bosnia. Would it have been so hard to reach for the telephone and to brief us? Formally, NATO was perhaps not forced to do it, but the point is the principle of partnership, which requires certain dealings with each other.

[Rybak] In view of such experiences, has the Russian leadership considered slowing down the troop withdrawal from Germany?

[Manilov] The punctual withdrawal from Germany was never questioned officially—even though it resulted in great technical and social problems for us. This step was important to us in principle. In this way, we wanted to give a signal and to provide the new German-Russian relations with a solid foundation. Europe's stability depends on these relations.

[Rybak] Was the German debate on the troop farewell humiliating for Russia?

[Manilov] Many Russians felt this. Unfortunately, the German leadership lacked any sure instinct in this question. It has not understood the symbolic significance of this ceremony: We hope for joy and also a little bit of gratefulness. After all, the war against fascism cost millions of Russians their lives. Those who forget this and slam the door shut offend our national pride. Perhaps, however, someone also deliberately wanted to put bitterness into the cup of joy.

[Rybak] What do you mean by that?

[Manilov] There are extremists who would like to torpedo a German-Russian partnership. I could envisage that they are not at home at the Rhine.

[Rybak] You mean pressure from the United States?

[Manilov] I cannot rule out this scenario because the Weimar plans did not exactly show a European hand. We in Europe have lived together for centuries and have learned to act somewhat more sensitively.

[Rybak] Unfortunately, there are still a few things that are poisoning German-Russian relations. For example: Will Russia return the German art treasures?

[Manilov] Yes, this is another delicate problem. I do not doubt that the art treasures will finally be returned. However, we still have to clarify some points and Germany also has to return its booty.

[Rybak] Many Russians regard the German art treasures as a compensation for war damage. Rightly?

[Manilov] This attitude is wrong. We certainly have to talk about compensation. But the national cultural heritage must not be abused for it. In this way, we would hurt the Germans' pride. I will have the question of the return of cultural goods dealt with in the Security Council.

[Rybak] With its rejection of NATO's "Partnership for Peace" [PFP] program, Russia is causing confusion. Only one month ago, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev announced Russia's accession. What is going on?

[Manilov] Russia is supporting the partnership idea and is prepared for accession in principle. However, we do not want this partnership to remain only an empty declaration. Before we sign it, we want to know first of all what all that means and what rights and duties we have. There are a lot of questions that have to be clarified.

[Rybak] Does Russia insist on a special status in the partnership?

[Manilov] What does a special status mean? Russia is a permanent member of the UN Security Council, a major nuclear power. Nobody should forget these realities. It has to be ensured that no decision of global importance may be made without us. However, there is also another problem: Some states regard the partnership as a protective shield against the Russian "danger" and want to establish a "cordon sanitaire" at the Russian border. What kind of partners are they? Russia must not be isolated! The whole partnership would be useless without us.

New 'Sevastopol-Fleet-Russia' Organization Established

LD2205131494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1307 GMT 22 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 22 TASS—A new pro-Russian political organization, the popular front "Sevastopol-Fleet-Russia", was set up today in Sevastopol, the main base of the Black Sea Fleet on the Crimean Peninsula. The organization will hold its first meeting on Sunday night, a spokesman for the Black Sea Fleet told TASS.

The popular front united the Crimea's patriotic movements, including the Russian Party, the Russian Patriotic Assembly, the Brotherhood of Crimean Slavs, the women's League, the All-Crimean Voters' Movement for the Crimean Republic.

At its founding meeting, the popular front cited its main goal as "consolidation of sound forces to uphold the right of the Crimean people and Sevastopol residents to choose their fate independently, in full accordance with international law".

Grachev Comments on Black Sea Fleet Status

LD2005150994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Talking to journalists about the latest events surrounding the Crimea, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev today categorically opposed possible provocations against the Black Sea Fleet. The Black Sea Fleet belongs to two states and it is controlled by two presidents, the Russian minister said.

Baltic Fleet To Take Part in NATO Naval Exercise

LD2305103294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0600 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Biryukov]

[Text] Kaliningrad, 23 May—Warships from the fleets of the Baltic countries have been invited to the first phase of the NATO "Baltops-94" joint naval maneuvers. Russia's Baltic fleet will be represented by the guided missile destroyer Neustrashimyy, whose crew will take part in working out combined sailing tasks, in demonstration submarine-hunting operations, helicopter landings of inspection groups, and search and rescue at sea. This stage will be under way from 7-10 June. More than 40 ships and combat craft, three submarines, and naval aviation from 12 countries will be taking part in combat tasks in the southern Baltic.

Fleet Begins Scheduled Exercises

LD2005210794 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] More than 20 combat ships, support vessels, and submarines have left the main base of the Black Sea Fleet. Until 22 May, the Black Sea Fleet is holding the scheduled exercises of the fleet's various forces, including firing practice and the targeting and elimination submarines. The exercises are kind summation of the results of a training period, preparations for the summer campaign, and at the same time, a competition to win the navy prizes.

Yeltsin, France's Juppe Discuss Cooperation

LD2005135594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1324 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin received visiting French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe on Friday, the Russian president's press service reports.

The sides discussed the conclusion of an agreement on cooperation and partnership between Russia and the European Union, Russia's entry into the Council of Europe as well as Russian-French relations.

They stressed that the gradual development of the Russian-French political dialogue into relations of mature partnership meets the interests of the two countries and helps to create the atmosphere of stability and trust in Europe and all over the world.

Grachev, Juppe Discuss CIS 'Flash Points'

LD2005163394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1240 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Palaria]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe who is on a visit in Moscow, discussed the situation in "flash points" in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Speaking of the Georgian-Abkhazian confrontation, Grachev said that the conflict has a trend for expanding, which affects Russia's security as well as its vitally important interests in the region.

The defence minister stressed that Russia has been constantly playing a mediator's role aimed at settling the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict politically but, regrettably, it does this mission single-handed. Neither international peace-making organisation nor members of the Commonwealth of Independent States take an active part in its settlement.

Grachev also said that 2,500-3,000 blue helmets will be dispatched to the region in compliance with the agreement on ceasefire and disengagement of forces in Abkhazia, signed in Moscow on May 14.

They will be stationed along the Inguri River on the Abkhazian side as well as in the Galskiy district and the Kodorskoye Gorge.

As for the Armenian-Azeri conflict, Grachev informed Juppe of the drafted plan for a Karabakh settlement which was signed by Russia, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh in Moscow on May 17.

Azeri Defence Minister Mamedrafi Mammadov was recalled to Baku on the same day all of a sudden. According to Grachev, this was evidently prompted by the aggravation of the situation at the republican parliament.

At the same time, he did not preclude a chance that this was done for political purposes in order to win time and to invite the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe to participate in a peace mission and to settle the Karabakh conflict under its aegis.

If the plan for settling the conflict was signed, Grachev noted, Russia would dispatch a peace-keeping force to the region on May 24. According to the minister, the Azeri defence minister is already in Moscow for the second day.

In Grachev's opinion, the essence of his arrival is to sign the plan for ceasefire and disengagement of the sides in the zone of the Armenian-Azeri confrontation by June 1 after some allegedly domestic issues are settled by President Geydar Aliyev.

Grachev stressed that Russia would not step back on the plan in any way. "The plan is very good. It can really bring peace," the minister noted.

Further on Grachev-Juppe Talks

LD2105105394 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0930 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev met French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe at the Russian Defense Ministry today. During their conversation the ministers exchanged opinions on the problems of settling the situation in the Caucasus and Bosnia, as well as Russian participation in the American "Partnership for Peace" program. Alain Juppe showed most interest in the Russian plan for settling the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. As Pavel Grachev stated, in accordance with the 14 May agreement, 2,500-3,000 Russian peacekeepers will be sent to the conflict zone. They will take up positions along the Inguri river, Galskiy Rayon, and the Kodorskoye Gorge.

Speaking about the prospects for joining the "Partnership for Peace" program, Pavel Grachev stressed that Russia is not demanding special conditions for itself, but believes cooperation with NATO countries must not be limited by a framework agreement. Therefore at his meeting with NATO leadership in Brussels he will put forward a broad package of specific proposals on cooperation between Russia and the North Atlantic bloc countries in the political and military spheres.

Juppe Says Paris Generally Backs Russian-EU Uranium Deal

LD2005191594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1639 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] France has agreed in principle to accept the Shokhin- Brittan formula concerning trade regulations for substances used in the nuclear industry, notably uranium, at talks between French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Russian officials in Moscow, Interfax was informed by Maxim Medvekov, the Russian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry official in charge of bilateral cooperation.

France was the only EU [European Union] country at a session of the EU Council on May 16 not to back the agreements reached by Russian Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin and the EU Commission's Vice- Chairman Leon Brittan in Moscow on May 2, thereby putting the signing of the Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between the EU and the Russian Federation in June or July this year under question.

Shokhin and Brittan agreed that general trading standards would apply to uranium and other fissile substances, but with some exceptions. France objected to the formula, but was unable to provide any serious arguments to back its objections, offering only abstract fears that the European market could become inundated by Russian uranium some time in the future.

The sides did manage to untie the knot in Moscow, Medvedkov said, agreeing on minor technical adjustments to the formula.

Now, he said, practically all obstacles to the signing of the agreement between Russia and the EU in June or July had been removed, but he could not be absolutely certain until the draft agreement had been approved by the EU Council on June 13.

French Foreign Minister Ends Official Visit

LD2105165094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1347 GMT 21 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko]

[Excerpts] St. Petersburg, 21 May—French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe ended his official visit to Russia in St. Petersburg today. [passage omitted]

A concert was held in the Petersburg Chapel, which houses the institute. The minister left for France this evening.

Duma Calls for International Conference on Bosnia

PM2305092994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 May 94 First Edition p 1

[Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma Appeal "in Connection with the Situation on the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia"]

[Text] Moscow, 13 May 1994—The Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma believes that in the situation which has taken shape a real opportunity has appeared for establishing peace on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

In this connection the State Duma appeals to all sides taking part in the conflict to cease all hostilities immediately and to embark on talks to establish peace. For its part the State Duma is prepared to render all-around assistance to set up dialogue between the sides involved.

The State Duma appeals to all parliaments of the world to prevent decisions which could destabilize the situation in the former Yugoslavia and primarily those leading to the violation of the embargo on arms supplies to any of the warring sides.

The State Duma suggests that the parliaments of states adjacent to the territory of the former Yugoslavia hold an international conference with the participation of UN and CSCE representatives on ways of overcoming the crisis in the Balkans.

Bosnian Serb Commander Mladic on Peace Prospects

LD2105223194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] In Bosnia, much now depends not on politicians but on the military. Vladimir Solovyev, the Ostankino correspondent in Yugoslavia, managed to interview specially for our program the man who is probably the most belligerent of the war leaders, the Bosnian Serbs' commander, General Ratko Mladic. What does he think of the prospects for a peaceful settlement?

[Begin recording] [Solovyev] In the Serb Republic and in Yugoslavia he is called the Serbian Zhukov. In the West, some regard him as a war criminal. Others study his victories in military staffs and academies. Fifty-year-old Colonel General Ratko Mladic commands the army of the Bosnian Serbs, the largest and the most efficient army in the Balkans.

[Mladic, in Serbo-Croatian, with superimposed Russian translation] Our people hold two things sacred—the land and the woman, because they give birth to new life. We never declared war on anyone. We are defending ourselves, our ancient land, our women and children, our monasteries and churches, our culture. Look, even now, during the war, throughout the Serb Republic, from Banja Luka to Trebinje, there are Croats and Muslims who are not fighting against the Serb nation and who enjoy all the rights of our citizens.

[Solovyev, in Serbo-Croatian, with superimposed Russian translation] Mr. General, what do you think of the possible division of Bosnia-Herzegovina? What share of the territory would Bosnian Serbs agree to have?

[Mladic] This is inevitable, and we do not demand more than we own. Serbs used to have most of the territory in Bosnia- Herzegovina. The 1910 land register shows that nearly 90 percent was theirs. The Serb nation stands for peace, and we propose that our adversaries sign an agreement on a universal and lasting end to the feud and the hostilities throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina, with the separation of forces along the present front lines. And let politicians solve all disputed issues later in conditions of peace.

[Solovyev] Do you think peace is a long way off?

[Mladic] As far as we are concerned, there can be peace right now. But looking at it strategically, the forces that unleashed this war and their sponsors have not yet reached their goals, either by force or by ruining Yugoslavia. They do not need peace at present. Therefore I am somewhat pessimistic. I do not believe that they want peace soon, because they profit immensely from the war.

[Solovyev] What do you think of UNPROFOR's [UN Protection Force] ability to bring peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina?

[Mladic] One cannot generalize, but most UN soldiers and officers do what they have to do quite well. But unfortunately, there are some who forget about their peace-keeping mission and openly side with the Croats or Muslims. I have to say that so far not one UNPROFOR soldier has been hurt on the territory of the Serb Republic. I am sure this will continue to be the case. I would like to assure the parents of Russian and Ukrainian soldiers with UNPROFOR that they are perfectly safe on our territory and that the people welcome them as a force of peace.

[Solovyev] One last question: what is your greatest dream?

[Mladic] Peace. [end recording]

[Announcer] If General Mladic were to put his assurances about striving for peace into practice, I think the entire international community would breathe a sigh of relief. But somehow I find it difficult to believe.

DPRK Envoy Welcomes Russian Nuclear Safety Initiative

LD2105083494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1621 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 20 May—If Russia makes its proposals about an international conference on security and the nuclear-free status of the Korean peninsula more concrete, North Korea is ready to study them and reply in concrete terms, Son Song-pil, DPRK ambassador to Moscow, told journalists today.

He said: "The attractive side of the Russian initiative is the desire to resolve the nuclear issue in the region through talks, without the use of force and threats, based on the principle of equal rights." According to the ambassador, only methods based on the use of force and pressure have been applied to his country so far. The United States, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), and certain states have frequently used such methods. Son Song-pil said: Regrettably, Russia has also been unable to refrain from using them, and for a while it toed the line of the U.S. Administration with respect to the issue of nuclear safety on the Korean peninsula. This has caused relations between North Korea and the Russian Federation to cool in the past few years. Now some aspects of their bilateral relations have started to inspire hope, and the present Russian initiative reflects this hope.

Answering an ITAR-TASS correspondent's question about the obstacles preventing the nuclear problem from being solved immediately, Son Song-pil spoke primarily about the IAEA's so-called "double standards" when estimating the level of nuclear activity of different states. He said conclusive proof of this is the 70 kg of plutonium that is unaccounted in Tokaymura, Japan, and only recently made public. Given the well-developed and efficient system of monitoring the security of nuclear installations by this international organization, this incident can only signify that the IAEA is "far from being impartial." The North Korean ambassador does not rule out that the plutonium found in Japan is "merely the tip of the iceberg" and that thorough and unbiased inspection could lead to the discovery of other serious Japanese violations of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

'Source': Russia Does Not Sell Weapons to North Korea

LD2305110694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1035 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow May 23 TASS—Russia is not selling weapons to North Korea at present, but has the right to do so as no international sanctions have been imposed on Pyongyang.

"At present there are no international sanctions against the People's Democratic Republic of Korea. Therefore, Russia, as any other country, has the right to ship to North Korea purely defensive systems of armaments and spare parts to them on a commercial basis", a high-ranking government source told TASS on Monday.

Pyongyang's foreign debt to Moscow, which remains from the time of the former Soviet Union, exceeds three billion US dollars and impedes commercial operations with North Korea, according to the source.

Kozyrev, UK's Hurd Begin Talks in Murmansk

LD2205180794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1725 GMT 22 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov, Vladimir Novikov]

[Text] Murmansk, 22 May—Russian and British foreign ministers began talks here today at the suburban hotel Ogni Murmanska. Welcoming the British visitor, Andrey Kozyrev noted that the two countries' cooperation during the war was closely linked with the port of Murmansk. "We remain allies after the ideological blackout that drew our countries apart," he said. "We are now returning to the natural state of partnership."

"You will be the first foreign minister from another country to visit the strategic base of the Russian Navy in Severomorsk," Kozyrev went on. "It is very important that the deadly missiles are no longer targeted at Britain, same as British Trident missiles are no longer targeted at Russia. This too is an example of new partnership."

The head of the Russian Foreign Ministry also noted that the meeting of the two ministers was taking place in a private hotel. In his view, this showed that despite all the difficulties, the spirit of enterprise had opened itself a way in this land of great opportunities.

"It is particularly interesting to me to visit Murmansk," Douglas Hurd said in his turn. "Older generation Britons, among whom I have many friends, went with the convoys across the dangerous Arctic waters, threatened by German submarines. This was the brightest page in their lives. I am looking forward to seeing the city that, among other things, is the administrative center of the Russian foreign minister's constituency, and to visiting the military base in Severomorsk. The reasons why this is important to me lie both in the past and in the present."

D. Hurd said he was confident that Murmansk would attract large foreign investments because of its vast mineral resources and the kray's geographical location.

UK's Prince Charles Escapes Assassination 16 May

LD2105223694 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 2155 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] It looks as though someone planned an attempt on the life of Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, when he visited St. Petersburg between 16 and 19 May. On 16 May, security guards discovered a plastic bag containing a time bomb between the doors of a shop of the British firm Littlewoods in Tukhachevskiy Avenue. The alarm hand connected with the firing device and four kilograms of TNT pointed at eight o'clock. Had the explosive device gone off, the shop would have been blown to pieces. The Prince of Wales did visit Littlewoods, but at another time.

Dudayev Declares 'Complete Bankruptcy' of UN

LD2205144494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1255 GMT 22 May 94

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Groznyy, 22 May—Today a three-day international conference entitled "Genocide in the USSR: Policy, Practice and Ideology" ends in the Chechen capital. The recurrent theme of the conference has been the continuing policy and practice of genocide not only on the territory of the former Union, but also in other regions of the world. Video documentaries have been presented to the forum dealing with acts of mass genocide in Tajikistan, Ingushetia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Abkhazia, and Bosnia, as well as historical materials on the spiritual and physical destruction of the people in Chechnya.

At the end of the conference's second day a speech was made by Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic-Ichkeria, who demanded the continuation of the Nuremburg trials for the organizers and ideological inspirers of the policy of genocide on the territory of the former Union in the present stage. Impunity engenders new crimes, Dudayev said. Touching on the stance of the international community, the Chechen president noted with regret that it remains an indifferent observer of the evil deeds being committed against peoples all over the world.

Dudayev declared the complete bankruptcy of the United Nations, an illegitimate body in which authority is illegally usurped by a narrow group of political clans in the person of the so-called five permanent members of the UN Security Council. This situation contradicts the fundamental interests of the international community, Dudayev said.

The president of the Chechen Republic-Ichkeria appealed to the states and countries of the world to recognize all the riches and resources of the planet as the exclusive property of the most high, and the right of all peoples to use these resources without regard to state borders and formations. In particular, Dudayev proposed as a first step that a water supply line should be laid from the icy peaks of the Caucasus to the Middle East, where water is the main cause of instability, bloodshed, and war. Today the conference will end its work after adopting a number of fundamental documents.

Duma Chairman Rybkin Receives PRC Ambassador

OW2305073994 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1000 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Russian State Duma Chairman Rybkin met with Chinese Ambassador to the Russian Federation Wang Jinqing at the latter's request. The two sides held a detailed discussion on the prospects for Russian-Chinese cooperation in the economic, scientific, cultural, and other fields. Chairman Rybkin briefed the ambassador about the Duma delegation's official visit to China, as well as specific plans for strengthening contacts between the two countries, including those between their parliaments.

The above news report was released by the Duma's Information Office.

PRC Expresses 'Concern' With Dalai Lama Visit

LD2105093094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1838 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Lvov]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 20 May—In an interview for ITAR-TASS today, the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama, who lives in exile in the Indian city of Dhamsala, expressed his hope that he would one day return to his homeland. "I hope to return to Lhasa at some time, to the Potala palace, the residence of the Dalai Lamas," said the former ruler of Tibet, who left Tibet after the bloody clashes between the local population and the Chinese Army in 1959.

The Dalai Lama said he "would find ways and channels to hold a referendum on the future of Tibet." He said that in the referendum the population would be given the choice of several alternatives. One of these is supported by advocates of the "middle way" who do not demand the complete separation and independence of Tibet from China. The Dala Lama, himself, is one of these. A different point of view is held by many young Tibetans who insist on complete independence for Tibet. [passage omitted]

The Dalai Lama stated that the unique Tibetan culture was on the verge of disappearing. At the same time he stressed his readiness to hold talks with Beijing on the basis of the principle that Deng Xiaoping, the architect of Chinese reforms, put forward with regard to Taiwan and Hong Kong—"one country-two systems"—extending it to the present Tibetan autonomous region of the PRC.

Sharing his impressions about present day Moscow, which he has already visited several times, the Dalai Lama said "a lot more cars" have appeared on the streets and "many houses are under construction near the capital," which in his opinion is evidence of development. But a much more striking change is that "previously in Moscow it was difficult to communicate with ordinary citizens, but now Muscovites converse willingly, they ask questions and show a new openness of views and emotions."

"I think this is very important," the Buddhist spiritual leader stressed. He advised Russians "to create something new in the economic sphere" to avoid the drawbacks of the "Western economic model."

On Saturday the Dalai Lama leaves for Delhi. During his stay in Moscow, the PRC embassy in Russia expressed "serious concern" about the activity of the Tibetan spiritual leader, which in the opinion of Chinese diplomats, was directed "at splitting China."

Dalai Lama Discusses Future of Tibet

LD2105215594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2045 GMT 21 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Zlodorev and Andrey Lvov]

[Text] Moscow May 22 TASS— The Dalai Lama said he will find means and ways to hold a referendum on the future of Tibet.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Saturday before his departure from Moscow where he was on a three-day visit, the Dalai Lama said he remains hopeful that he will return to China one day and step into the Tibetan capital of Lhasa and the Potala, the former palace of the Dalai Lama.

The Dalai Lama fled Tibet after bloody clashes between the Tibetan population and Chinese police in 1959 and has been living in India ever since.

He said that Tibetan culture is on the verge of extinction and confirmed his readiness to hold talks with China on the basis of the principle "one country--two systems" proposed by architect of chinese reform Deng Xiaoping for Taiwan and Hong Kong. He believes this principle could also be applied to Tibet.

The Dalai Lama was in Moscow at the invitation of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Mankind. He held informal meetings with Russian parliamentarians and Moscow officials and public figures, and took part in a seminar on global security and conflict settlement.

On Friday [20 May], the Dalai Lama attended an international prayer for peace which he served together with representatives of the Russian Orthodox, Islamic, Judaic and Buddhist clergy.

Kindness is the basis of human being and people of Russia must remember this, the Dalai Lama said. He called on the citizens of Russia to believe in themselves and not to abandon their hope for a better future.

The Dalai Lama said he was impressed by changes in Russia and the greater openness of society and people who eagerly joined in conversation with him in the street, asked questions and did not try to hide their opinion and emotions.

He believes Russia should come up with something new in the economic sphere in order to avoid the flaws of Western economies.

The Dalai Lama flew back to India today.

Shumeyko Departs on South American Tour

LD2205130994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] In the meantime, Vladimir Shumeyko, the head of the Upper Chamber of the Federal Assembly, has left for a tour of five South American countries. Though the chairman of the Federation Council has enough invitations to keep him travelling for a whole year, he has decided to rediscover for Russia the far-away Latin American continent. Speaking to our correspondent Vyacheslav Osipov before the tour, the speaker of the Upper Chamber said that Russia has stopped dividing countries into Third World states and developing states, and added in the way of explanation:

[Begin Shumeyko recording] Russia's international policy has this underlying principle: We are not looking for ideologically- close friends any more. Today we are choosing partners on the basis of mutual advantage, so that our relations could contribute to our mutual development, primarily in economic terms. One thing that should be very closely monitored, first of all, is Russia's interests, which should take precedence. As for partners, we will be able to find them anywhere. [end recording]

Continuing the conversation, our correspondent said that Georgadze, Podgornyy, and Vorotnikov [leaders of the Brezhnev period] had made lengthy tours of Latin America—but it would be an overstatement to say that this had contributed to expanding mutual contacts. So, what is the objective of the visit to Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Chile, and Ecuador? Is Shumeyko hoping to use the experience of those countries in reforming the Russian social and economic life?

[Begin Shumeyko recording] Yes, no Soviet and, later, Russian leader has visited those states since 1982, which was a long time ago. Take Argentina, for example, which has gone through a stage very similar to the one we are going though now. That country managed to reach a political consensus at a certain stage, there are two parties now and the country is developing. They adopted a normal civic code—a very good one, in fact, which allows Argentina to develop a market economy and democracy. We keep looking for some outstanding examples—like the United States, or Japan, or some place else. My preliminary acquaintance with the South American continent has shown that today the Russian state has no right to ignore it. We can learn a lot from them in terms of our economic development. If we want to integrate our relationships, our legislative systems should be brought closer to each other. We should start by studying, to a degree, their existing laws and experience. We are expecting good results from this trip. I do not want to be compared to Georgadze, Vorotnikov, and the like—but you will see for yourselves. [end recording]

Arrives in Chile

LD2305075594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0746 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Viktor Dmitriyev]

[Text] Santiago May 23 TASS—Chile has accumulated rich experience in democratic transformations and economic development which can be fruitful for Russia, Vladimir Shumeiyo, the speaker of the Federation Council, told reporters upon arrival in the Latin American country on Sunday.

He is to meet Chilean President Eduardo Frei Ruiz and hand over a message from Boris Yeltsin to him.

Shumeyko said he is satisfied with the current state of bilateral relations and, in particular, in trade and economic cooperation. "The long-standing ties between Russia and friendly Chile are based on principles of mutual respect and equality", the speaker of the upper chamber of the Russian Parliament stressed.

Chile is the first leg of Shumeyko's trip to Latin America. "I do not share the opinion that Latin America lies far away from Russian interests", he said and added that the experience of certain countries of the region in democratic transformations and economic reforms can be useful for Russia.

Shumeyko, who is accompanied by heads of Russian privatised companies, including president of the major "Lukoil" oil firm Vagit Alekperov, is to visit Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela and Equador.

Kozyrev Hails Release of 2 POW's from Afghanistan

LD2205125094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1114 GMT 22 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Rudolf Gladkikh]

[Text] Moscow, 22 May—Today Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev expressed gratitude to the Government of Pakistan and to Afghan leaders for their specific action to implement accords reached between us during visits to Islamabad and Kabul. The matter concerns the handing over on 16 May in the residence of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of two former Soviet POW's seized by a group supporting Golboddin Hekmatyar during the war in Afghanistan.

After many years of imprisonment and deprivation in camps run by the Afghan opposition, the two Russian men, Yuriy Stepanov from Bashkiria and Aleksey Olenin from Kuybyshev Oblast, have been allowed to return home.

I welcome the release from captivity of Aleksey Olenin and Yuriy Stepanov, the Russian foreign minister said today. Their return home was made possible by the constant attention of the Russian leadership to the problems of finding and freeing former Soviet POWs captured in Afghanistan, and to the joint efforts in this area of the Foreign Ministry, other Russian departments, and the Committee for Affairs of Soldiers Serving Abroad, the Russian foreign minister said.

Kozyrev expressed hope that constructive interaction between the leaderships of Russia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan will continue, in order to solve the humanitarian problem of POW's as soon as possible.

According to Russian Defense Ministry figures there are 290 of our soldiers missing in Afghanistan. It is known that 60 or 70 of them are alive. Leonid Biryukov, head of the section for the finding and freeing of missing soldiers of the Committee for Affairs of Soldiers Serving Abroad under the council of CIS heads of government, who cited these figures to the ITAR-TASS correspondent, expressed confidence that all the Afghan war veterans who had been separated from their homeland would certainly be reunited with it. The complex work to rescue our soldiers captured in Afghanistan will continue.

Position Clarified on Pakistan Holding Former POW's

LD2005165294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1422 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: By correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] On May 18, in Interfax's material concerning cooperation between Russian and Pakistani secret services in the efforts to free former Soviet prisoners of war published in News Bulletins and in Diplomatic Panorama, the press secretary of the director of Russia's Intelligence Service, Tatyana Samolis, was quoted as saying that former Soviet prisoners of war still remained in Pakistan.

In her Friday's interview with Interfax Samolis explained that some former Soviet servicemen taken prisoner "in the Afghan war" still remained abroad.

According to Samolis, she did not mean any concrete country, in particular Pakistan.

Members of Russia's Foreign Ministry explained to Interfax that former Soviet servicemen are held on Afghan soil. "Had our prisoners of war been in Pakistan, the Pakistanis would have extradited them long ago," a high-ranking Russian diplomat told Interfax's correspondent.

No Statements on Recognition of Yemeni Democratic Republic

LD2105175194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Moscow has not made any statements about recognizing the independent Yemeni Democratic Republic declared by the south Yemen leadership, Viktor Posuvalyuk, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department of Near and Middle East Affairs, said today. He was speaking in connection with accusations by representatives of north Yemen alleging that Russia had recognized the independence of that republic.

Meanwhile, MENA reports that Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim 'Ali Basindwah, received Igor Ivashenko, Russia's ambassador to Yemen, today. The Russian diplomat said that Moscow supports Yemeni unity without frontiers.

Evacuation of Russians From Yemen Completed

LD2005150594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1335 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] On May 20 the evacuation of all Russian citizens from Yemen was completed. The last Russian vessel Nickel delivered from Aden to Djibouti 163 people, including 13 Ukrainian fishermen and citizens of 15 other countries—U.S., France, Germany, Great Britain, and others.

Iraqi Envoy Presents Credentials, Thanks Yelstin

JN2005204994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin received at the Kremlin today the credentials of Dr. Hasan Fahmi Jum'ah, new Iraqi ambassador to the Russian Federation. At the outset of the meeting, the ambassador conveyed leader President Saddam Husayn's greetings to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, wishing him continued health and success and the relations of cooperation between the two friendly countries progress and prosperity in all areas for the good of the Iraqi and Russian peoples.

The ambassador briefed President Yelstin on the sound situation in Iraq and what Iraq has done to implement UN Security Council resolutions. Expressing the thanks of Iraq—government and people—for Russia's positive stand during the recent UN Security Council's debates, the ambassador voiced the hope that the Russian position will be developed in a way that will lead to the lifting of the blockade and ending the Iraqi people's suffering.

President Yeltsin asked the ambassador to convey his personal greetings to leader President Saddam Husayn, wishing him success and the Iraqi people progress and prosperity. He stressed Russia's readiness to promote its relations with Iraq and to work effectively to lift the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

The credentials presenting ceremony was attended by Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian president's adviser; officials from the Near East and North Africa and Protocols Departments at the Foreign Ministry; a number of Iraqi Embassy employees in Moscow.

Steps Taken To Ensure Security in Algeria

LD2005121894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1158 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Tyssovsky]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—Director of the Middle East and Africa department of the Russian Foreign Ministry Viktor Posuvalyuk told ITAR-TASS by telephone today that the number of Russians in Algeria had substantially decreased during the recent period due to the evacuation of the wives and children of Russian specialists and employees of different organisations. Their total number now equals to 1,100 people. Various ways are being studied to ensure their security, including probable further reductions, he stressed. However, the recall of Russian experts from several sectors of the economy, which are vitally important for Algeria, is linked with definite difficulties, which may affect both friendly Algeria and Russia.

Touching on his Thursday meeting with Algerian ambassador to Moscow, Posuvalyuk explained that the demand to toughen security measures in order to protect Russian specialists, handed to the Algerian side, was "worded in the most resolute form". The sides also discussed ways to "approach the very concept of this security from a new angle, in particular, to lodge the Russians more compactly, which would make it easier for the Algerian law enforcement bodies to ensure their protection".

The ambassador stressed the difficulties with which the Algerian police was now confronted. It was decided to establish closer contacts of the Russian Embassy and the Algerian contractors with the local security services.

Aid Convoy for Rwanda Refugees Flies to Tanzania

PM2005154494 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 May 94 p 2

[Marina Ryklina report: "Russian Convoy on African Soil"]

[Text] A special detachment from the Russian Ministry for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters, comprising 15 drivers, communications workers, medics, and translators, flew out of Moscow to Tanzania 18 May. Two transport aircraft—an Il-76 and an An-124 "Ruslan"—delivered 10 "KamAZ" trucks, spares, and communications systems to the African continent.

According to figures from the World Food Program, there are already more than 320,000 refugees in Tanzania from neighboring Rwanda—where an interethnic war still rages. Every day more than 1,500 people are arriving in the quest to escape. The United Nations is so far succeeding in supplying food to the world's largest refugee camp at Benako [name as transliterated].

Within the framework of the recently concluded agreement to support the humanitarian aid operations, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has appealed to its partner—the Russian Ministry for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters—asking it to take part in transporting international humanitarian cargo to Rwandan refugee camps. Following this request an advance party from the Ministry for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters went to Tanzania to arrange the routes for the delivery of the cargo and look at security problems, the conditions under which Russian drivers would be living, and funding issues. Our participation in this action will be effected on the basis of the United Nations reimbursing our transport costs, detachment members' pay, and certain other expenses....

Meanwhile the Ministry for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters is already installing a special communications system which will make it possible to monitor the Russian convoy's progress all along the route.

Kazimirov on Azeri Call For Armenian Withdrawal

LD2005154094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1335 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] On return from Baku, Thursday [19 May], President Yeltsin's plenipotentiary emissary for Nagorno-Karabakh Vladimir Kazimirov told Interfax that Azerbaijan wanted an agreement on the withdrawal of the Armenian forces from the occupied Azeri territories to supplement the protocol negotiated by the Armenian and Azeri defense ministers and the commander of the

Karabakh defense forces under the mediation of the Russian defense minister. Kazimirov met with the Azeri leaders in Baku.

Whether a formal agreement would be concluded, was immaterial to Baku but, Kazimirov said, Baku wanted a solution for that problem. It seeks that the Armenians withdraw as soon as hostilities are ceased in what it seen as the occupied areas.

The protocol was signed on May 17 by mediating Defense Minister Pavel Grachev of Russia, his Armenian counterpart Serge Sarkissyan and the commander of the Karabakh forces Samvel Babayan. In addition to a cease-fire, it calls for the presence of observers and the disengagement of the conflicting forces in the disputed zone. Without signing the document, Azerbaijan's Defense Minister Mamadrafi Mammadov left Moscow for Baku.

Kazimirov hoped the Armenians would meet the Azeri demand. Understanding had been reached in principle, he said, on Armenian withdrawl from the occupied areas. The Armenians would withdraw as soon as they were sure that the hostilities were over and there was no threat to Nagorno-Karabakh.

Kazimirov refused to confirm that the leaders of the conflicting parties would possibly meet by June 1. Moves were being made, he said, but uncertainty always remained when it came to setting deadlines. Although they were perfectly understandable from the human point of view, high emotions bred nervousness, and even made one doubt the possibility of a non-violent settlement. This kind of conflicts never ended under anaesthesia, Kazimirov said, they always ended in pain, if not agony.

Addressing the political role of Russia in the efforts to settle the Karabakh conflict, Kazimirov said Russia could not afford to discontinue mediation because its interests were at stake.

Military, Ministry Still Optimistic Over Karabakh

PM2005135394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 May 94 p 2

[Pavel Vasilyev article: "Nagorno-Karabakh: The Lull before the Peace?"]

[Text] Under the plan proposed by Russia on Monday at the meeting of the defense ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the commander in chief of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's defense forces, the Russian Federation president was due to sign a detailed plan today for the introduction of Russian peacemaking and disengagement forces into the region of hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh and in five days' time, on 24 May, the actual disengagement of the opposing forces was due to begin along the entire front. But the process has been suspended. Temporarily, according to the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry. The representatives of Armenia and Karabakh accepted the Russian plan, but the Azerbaijan defense minister needed additional information and left for Baku without signing the document or taking leave of his colleagues. Special envoy Vladimir Kazimirov, leader of the Russian delegation at the talks, then went to the Transcaucasus. On Tuesday and Wednesday he discussed the prevailing situation with local political leaders on the spot. It transpired that the protocol had not been signed "because it contained certain defects." And in particular because a session of parliament had been fixed for Tuesday, at which deputies were demanding a report on the Azerbaijan leadership's actions in connection with the situation in Karabakh.

In the conflict zone itself calm is being maintained at the moment. On the whole the sides are fulfilling the cease-fire accords reached in Moscow.

Is there a hope that the lull which has set in will end in a peace agreement? Well-informed Azerbaijani sources are accusing Yerevan of disrupting the detailed peace settlement plan, while the Armenian permanent mission blames Baku for the breakdown of the talks. Nevertheless, no one is rejecting the idea of direct contacts between the defense ministers and the commander in chief of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic through the mediation of Army General Pavel Grachev. At the Russian Foreign Ministry they also believe that the chance of peace has not been lost and that 24 May could mark the start of a new life for the two neighboring peoples. Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, Russian deputy defense minister, who is responsible for the peacemaking forces' activity, has even expressed confidence that Azerbaijan will sign the protocol in the near future. And Pavel Grachev himself tends to view the military's actions as an effort to achieve peace. Even though, in his words, certain forces still exist which "are getting rich out of the Karabakh war." In addition, "the people who give the order to wage war never go to the front line; they always command from the rear," Pavel Grachev added.

Time will tell whether these hopes are well founded.

Russian Envoy Calls for Peacemakers in Karabakh

LD2105173894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1244 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Russian peace envoy for Nagorno-Karabakh Vladimir Kazimirov says that there could be no cease-fire in the disputed territory unless peacekeepers have been sent there. In an interview with Interfax, he spoke of no other alternative being envisaged for the time being.

At the same time, Kazimirov stressed the forces that the military officials of Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Russia had agreed on sending to the area of conflict were not intended to disengage troops. Instead, they were designed to ensure the security of military observers including one common and three regional headquarters and a large number of stationary observation posts and mobile observer groups.

Finance Ministry on Tajikistan's Joining Ruble Zone

LD2005192794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1639 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The Russian Finance Ministry believes that it is too early to discuss Tajikistan's joining the ruble zone, Deputy Russian Finance Minister Andrey Kazmin told the Financial Information Agency.

He emphasized that this issue could be considered only in the distant and not in the near future as Tajikistan would prefer.

By the end of 1993 Tajikistan was the only republic of the former USSR where old issue rubles were still in circulation. This led to the complete collapse of the Tajik monetary system. Trying to remain in the ruble zone, Dushanbe made quite a risky decision and seized old issue rubles without introducing its own currency units.

This resulted in crisis. To overcome it the Russian government agreed to allot a credit of 120 billion cash rubles. Tajikistan has already received 80 billion rubles of it.

The Russian Finance Ministry believes that Tajikistan must focus on restoration of its own monetary system. Tajikistan must introduce its own currency together with Russian rubles. This seems to be the most reasonable alternative in the present situation, Kazmin pointed out.

He referred to the April memorandum of the Russian government and the Central Bank submitted to the International Monetary Fund. The memorandum said that the merging of the Russian monetary system with the monetary systems of the CIS states could be carried out only if the economic systems of these states would suit the purpose. The economic potential of Belarus, which has signed such an agreement with Russia, significantly exceeds that of Tajikistan. However, many problems must be settled before the Russian-Belarussian treaty is implemented.

Russian Acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin has recently recommended that Tajikistan introduce its own national coupons and cover its expenditures without Russian credits. Dubinin announced that Russia had already printed coupons for Tajikistan.

Firm Concludes Contracts To Build Ships in India

LD2105091394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0651 GMT 21 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alexey Kuznetsov]

[Text] New Delhi May 21 TASS—A visit to India by Viktor Samoilov, managing director of Rosvooruzhenie, a state export-import company on weapons and combat materiel, ended on Saturday with signing several contracts on the construction in the republic of missile boats, frigates and escort ships.

He was received by Indian Minister of State for Defence M. Mallikarjun, had meetings with commanders of land, air and naval forces and visited shipyards in Bombay and Goa.

"The visit confirmed that Russian-Indian cooperation in the military and military-technical spheres has a long-term prospect," Samoilov said in an interview with ITAR-TASS. "We mapped out cooperation programmes for land, air and naval forces.

"A long-term plan has been drafted to build warships at Indian shipyards with Russian participation: over ten missile boats and some ten frigates and escort ships. One of them will be launched for running tests late this year."

Russia will supply all the main units, component parts and arms for these ships, he stressed. This means that new jobs will be created at Russian munitions factories.

Speaking about a Russian visit by Indian Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao and his talks with the Russian leaders, Samoilov said that the sides would discuss, among other things, military cooperation.

Political Issues

Yeltsin's Reasons for Dismissing Shakhray Examined

PM2005100594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 May 94 Evening Edition p 1

[Nikolay Kishkin report: "Complaints Against the Government"]

[Text] The latest briefing by Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian Federation president's press secretary, was held yesterday; it was devoted to current events. He reported in particular that an important conference is to be held next week with the government leadership in order to analyze the process of economic reform and identify weak points in it. The president had collected a number of sharp criticisms of and even complaints against the government, the press secretary reported. He he had already expressed these in a six-hour discussion with the prime minister a few days ago and now intended to obtain answers to the questions he had raised. Rumors about an imminent radical government reshuffle, in particular about the resignation of A. Chubays, were refuted. Rumors circulated by certain mass media about the imminent resignation of Presidential Administration Head S. Filatov were also resolutely refuted.

The president places a high value on the results of the signing of the Treaty on Social Accord, V. Kostikov said, which made it clear that political forces which advocate civil peace undoubtedly can prevail over the forces of confrontation and political revenge. The events of 1 and 9 May have shown that the forces of the hardline opposition are extremely insignificant. The degree of animosity and the "verbal extremes" to which certain leaders have resorted testify that they have no public support and their tactics can increasingly be compared with those of the Bolsheviks. Naturally this does not mean that the president cannot see the danger of political extremism. The tactics of bombing and arson always lead to destabilization. But the president believes that the extreme opposition's hopes of revenge are illusory. Russia is already learning to distinguish politicians from political buffoons. As for the moderate, constructive opposition, normal discussions will be conducted with it. A number of meetings with factions have been scheduled.

As far as relations with the State Duma are concerned, the president assesses them as favorable and is prepared for compromises in the spirit of accord, as he has in fact demonstrated by signing the Law on the Status of Deputies. At the same time, he cannot fail to see the trial balloons intended to test the president's tolerance. Some effort by the State Duma to interfere in matters that are the executive's prerogative can be observed. Here, V. Kostikov said, we need not cherish any illusions: The president will not tolerate any changes in the division of power which is enshrined in the Constitution. This is not a threat, V. Kostikov stressed, but a statement of the political experience which the president has gained from the events preceding October 1993.

Answering journalists' questions, the press secretary reported that when the president made the decision to relieve S. Shakhray of his ministerial post he was proceeding on the basis of the idea that he should concentrate his efforts on coordinating the numerous areas of political work already under his control as vice premier—which is why his resignation from that post was not accepted. At the same time, V. Kostikov said, he had instructions from the president to comment on S. Shakhray's style of work, in particular his tendency to accumulate too many posts and thus reduces the benefit accruing in his work Furthermore, distressing observations have been made that S. Shakhray's personal political calculations for the future will never accord with the interests of Russia's stabilization.

In answer to a question about the prospects of stabilizing the situation in the North Caucasus, V. Kostikov did not rule out the possibility of B. Yeltsin's meeting with D. Dudayev.

Filatov Says Removal Linked to Chechnya

LD2105170994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1543 GMT 21 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow May 21 TASS—A new Russian negotiator to the talks with the Chechen Republic will be appointed in the near future, Russian Presidential Administration Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov said on Saturday.

Filatov made it clear that the removal of Vice-Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray from the post of nationalities minister is connected with the need to find ways to enhance relations between Russia and the Chechen Republic.

Shakhray had a firm position at the talks, insisting on early elections in the Chechen Republic and participation of the Chechen opposition in the talks as a precondition.

Filatov confirmed Russian President Boris Yeltsin's intention to meet with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev in the near future.

Further Filatov Remarks on Shakhray

LD2105191594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 21 May 94

[Interview with Sergey Filatov, chief of President Yeltsin's staff, by correspondent Voskoboynikov; date and place not given]

[Text] [Voskoboynikov] Sergey Aleksandrovich, could it happen that you, like Sergey Shakhray, might have to find out from the newspapers about being removed from a official position?

[Filatov] Well, this is a difficult question. You see, I think it is a ridiculous thing that a person finds out from the newspapers or radio that a decree has been signed on his dismissal or removal, so to speak. The procedural system had not worked properly in this instance. Unfortunately, things like this do happen time from time.

[Voskoboynikov] Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian president's press secretary, said that Shakhray's plans were not always in line with Russia's real state interests. Nevertheless, President Yeltsin has decided to leave Shakhray in the position of Vice Premier. Why?

[Filatov] Well, you know, Shakhray's activities have been beneficial. Since the creation of the Russian Federation we have seen the important work he has been carrying out in one or another sector he has headed. That is why I think these circumstances were probably taken into account. Of course, his work is beneficial to the government and it is most likely that this was behind the president's decision to keep Shakhray.

Shakhray Discusses Dismissal

LD2105202294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 21 May 94

[Interview with Sergey Shakhray, former Russian minister of nationalities and regional policy, by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Sergey Mikhaylovich, many people link your dismissal as minister for the affairs of nationalities and regional policy with your stand at the talks with Chechnya, and with the situation in the North Caucasus in general. Is that really the case?

[Shakhray] I do not think there is a direct link here. Even if there is, I still believe that decisions on personnel matters should be made by the prime minister and the president on their own, without prompts or recommendations from Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, as some hinted was the case. I should like to say this is not a question of a certain personal stand of mine. There is a presidential message in which the policy toward Chechnya is formulated; there is a State Duma resolution. Therefore, I believe that all the federal bodies of state power—the Federation Council with its head, the State Duma, and the government—should act along the lines that have been defined, both in political and in legal terms, rather than conjure up some inventions of their own. After all, there should be elementary order in the country.

Incidentally, my resignation statement is connected with the breach of elementary procedures and order. On the one hand, I have been retained as a deputy prime minister in charge of the nationalities and regional policy, and on the other, a minister of whom I have not heard anything has been appointed to cover the same area.

[Correspondent] Do you foresee any more serious changes in the cabinet?

[Shakhray] I believe there will be no drastic upheavals and reshuffles.

[Correspondent] You mean, there will be no such proposal from the prime minister himself?

[Shakhray] You may have noticed that the prime minister, using his vast experience, believes that an old hand is better than two new ones. He prefers not to change his personnel, his ministers, as one changes one's gloves, but to work with the cadres he has. My personal feeling is that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin will not allow any reshuffles in the government.

Yegorov Prepared To Use 'Harsh Measures'

LD2205211694 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Meanwhile, the new Russian minister of nationalities and regional policy affairs is ready to take up his duties. Our correspondent reports from Krasnodar with the details.

[Correspondent S. Shcherbal] The 43-year-old governor of Kuban, Nikolay Yegorov, who has not been released from that post yet incidentally, arrived in Moscow today to take up the seat as minister of nationalities and regional policy affairs, which he has inherited from Sergey Shakhray.

[Begin recording] [Ingushetia President Ruslan Aushev] We see Nikolay Dmitriyevich's appointment as a hopeful sign, and we heads of republics and regions must of course help him formulate policy.

[Yegorov] In my work as a Russian government minister, I don't intend to do anything revolutionary, especially in the sphere of interethnic relations.

[Unidentified correspondent] At one time you did try to use harsh measures to extinguish a number of hotbeds of interethnic tension that flared up in the kray. In your capacity as minister, do you plan to use these sorts of harsh measures on a Russia-wide level to extinguish conflicts?

[Yegorov] If it is necessary to use harsh measures, if the situation demands it, then I do indeed have enough strength and will to do that.

[K. Zatulin, chairman of State Duma committee for CIS affairs] Alexander Dumas the elder commented that blood in the south flows more quickly, thus any indigent nobleman from the south of France, from Gascogne, who went to Paris would make a career for himself faster than his far richer comrade from the north, from Normandie or Picardie. I think that what goes for France is typical for the south of Russia, too. [end recording]

Filatov Denies Resignation Rumors

LD2105210494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1920 GMT 21 May 94

[Interview with Sergey Filatov, chief of the Russian president's staff, by correspondent L. Ioffe; place and date not given; from the "Vesti" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Ioffe] Sergey Filatov is far from being a noisy sort of politician, he is very proper and even affable, and then all of a sudden there is a huge fuss in the newspapers about his resignation.

[Filatov] It was news to me just as to everyone else, all the more so in that there is nothing behind it all. That is the most interesting bit. Two months ago there were attempts to bring the president's first aide Viktor Vasilyevich Ilyushin and myself into conflict...

[Ioffe] On what grounds, if I may ask?

[Filatov] Actually, it is hard to say, but I reckon that there are nevertheless, a number of political forces that on the one hand, want to put their own people in, of course.

[Ioffe] Sergey Aleksandrovich Filatov cited the words of Gennadiy Zyuganov, to the effect that his party has its men at all level.

[Filatov] There are lots of people who do not like accord.

[Ioffe] As for relations with Viktor Ilyushin, Filatov said these have always been good, and will continue to be, for both men are busy getting on with the job.

[Unidentified announcer] Sergey Filatov gave this interview to our commentator after a conference to mark Academician Sakharov's birthday.

Yeltsin Not Planning Constitutional Changes

LD2305132194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin is not working on any amendments to the Constitution concerning the division of powers, Kremlin Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov told INTERFAX. (Recently, there have been rumors about the intention of the president to submit to the State Duma a number of amendments to further delineate the powers of top state bodies—IF).

Filatov emphasized that the Civic Accord Pact had not been clear enough on which provisions of the Constitution may be amended. He recognized that development of society would make it necessary to amend the Constitution. "However, introduction of any amendments will be carried out jointly by all power structures," he stressed.

Filatov did not agree with the point of view of some influential politicians who prognosticate a kind of revenge by the Soviet system, primarily at the local level and later at the federal one. Namely, Chairman of the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms Gavriil Popov shares this concern.

Filatov reassured that the principle of division of powers was working both in the center and at the level of the federation's constituent members. He sees no threat of restoration of the Soviet system at the regional level.

Filatov believes that the tendency of local representative bodies influencing the executive power is not dominant. However, he admitted that such attempts took place, "especially at the level of the republics." Filatov cited Mordovia as an example. A surveying commission composed of legal experts from the government and the president's administration, has lately come back from Mordovia. The commission concluded that most of the recent decisions adopted by the Mordovan Supreme Soviet contradicted the Russian Constitution, Filatov pointed out.

He made it clear that the Russian president had no intention to solve this problem by force. Filatov said that after the conversation which had been held with the chairman of the Mordovan parliament, it was now possible to hope that the parliament's decision on restoration of the Soviet system at the regional level would be reviewed.

Yeltsin Expresses Confidence in Interior Minister

LD2005133494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1313 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—The recent murder of State Duma deputy and member of the new Regional Policy faction Andrey Aizderdzis provoked indignation of Russian political circles and President Boris Yeltsin, says a statement of Presidential Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov.

A number of State Duma factions even suggested to remove Interior Minister Viktor Yerin from his post.

The president has studied the investigation materials, motives and circumstances of the murder. In his opinion, the Interior Ministry acted swiftly and professionally. The ministry's measures against crime and corruption have improved as well.

Vyacheslav Kostikov was authorized to state that the president see no reasons for disciplinary measures as regards Viktor Yerin and has full confidence in the Interior Ministry.

"He is confident of competence, high professional and personal qualities of Viktor Yerin. The question of Yerin's removal from his post will not be raised," says the statement.

No Plans To Sack Yerin

LD2005184294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1639 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin has no reason to distrust or punish his Interior Minister Viktor Yerin, presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov said in a statement issued in Moscow on Friday. This follows a proposal from a number of parliamentary factions that the minister be dismissed following the recent assassination of Russian deputy Andrey Aizderdzis.

The president has examined materials related to the case and thinks the ministry's actions to be prompt and impeccable, the statement says. It also quotes Yeltsin as saying there has been certain progress in the ministry's campaign against crime and corruption.

The spokesman said the question of Yerin's dismissal was not on the agenda.

Filatov Discusses Moscow's Relations With Regions

LD2005204094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nilolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovsky]

[Text] Kremlin Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov in an interview with Interfax was airing views on Moscow's relations with Russian regions.

IF [INTERFAX]: What are the center's priorities in relations with regional governments?

FILATOV: One of the main priorities is the signing of power sharing agreements with different parts of the country. The negotiating process is under way with Kabardino-Balkaria, Bashkiria and Russia's western exclave of Kaliningrad. It will take some time to adopt an appropriate federal law. In the meantime, each individual republic or region tries to resolve the power sharing issue with Moscow in its own way. In my view, there are no serious rifts, let alone conflicts, between Russian regions or ethnic groups. The main difficulties are economic ones.

IF: Despite recession, Russia appears to have been spared the trouble of major ethnic conflicts, doesn't it?

FILATOV: I think it is most important to take advantage of the atmosphere of ethnic harmony to be able to meet the economic targets the government announced early this year. The thing is the government had failed to halt last year's production slump because of bitter political confrontation having, as it were, to start afresh this year..

But there must be a certain sequence in what we do. The government tried to put a firm lid on inflation which has led to a further fall in output. What we need most during this painful stage of redistribution of labor is political stability.

The government faces a formidable job of luring new investment and technologies, providing job training programs and arranging redistribution of the workforce. It also has to contemplate the arrangement of public work and decide what is to be done with a would be army of unemployed.

Yesterday, I had a meeting with the students of the Moscow Energy Institute only to face a barrage of criticism, most of it quite justified. I told the audience that most of its suggestions could have been put in place in normal conditions but when the government had to do so many things at a time.

I am sure we will overcome all hardships on the path of reforms if people realize the need for civic peace. We will manage to achieve the economic targets the president set early this year.

More importantly, it must be realized that we have had to live in warlike conditions for the past 80 years. Millions of people have died in various wars. Now is the time to get away from the negative trend and banish the very thought of civil confrontation.

Yeltsin, Rybkin Discuss Social Accord Treaty

LD2005143294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1348 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Speaker of the Russian parliament lower house Ivan Rybkin who met in the Kremlin on Friday, examined the political situation in the country, following the singing of the Treaty of Civic Accord.

According to Presidential Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov, the sides noted that concerted actions by the president and the lower house to gain political stabilisation yielded positive results.

They examined versions of conciliation procedures to implement the treaty in the spirit of a constructive dialogue.

The president and the speaker also discussed the formation of the federal budget. They pointed to the similarity of approaches to the adjustment of the budget's military section, taking into account real requirements of the army and social needs of servicemen.

Rybkin informed Yeltsin about the debates at the lower house of a bill on the Constitutional Court and a commission on constitutional amendments. In this connection, they discussed personnel issues.

The president and the speaker analysed the political results of their latest trips—to Germany and China, respectively.

Further on Yeltsin-Rybkin Talks

LD2005172094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1600 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—A difficult situation which developed in the Russian economy was the major issue of the meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Chairman of the Lower House of the Russian Parliament Ivan Rybkin.

Upon completion of the meeting Rybkin informed lawmakers of the State Duma about its results. Rybkin pointed out that the two discussed problems connected with insolvency in industry and measures for the prevention of further production decline.

Rybkin said that they discussed measures to be taken by the State Duma to give a legislative support to the Treaty of Civic Accord.

Much attention was given to the budget-94 draft law which will be discussed by the State Duma in the second reading and in particular, to articles of the draft law concerning needs of the Army, education, culture and science.

Rybkin said that he had informed the Russian president that a presidential decree and a resolution of the Russian Government, under which a block of buildings in the Okhotny Ryad Street were transferred to the State Duma, were not fulfilled by some organisations which had not moved out from the building given to the State Duma as its new residence. Rybkin voiced satisfaction that after his conversation with the Russian president all organisations ignoring the resolution were given a strict warning to move out until May 26.

Rutskoy Plans To Form New Political Party

LD2005115794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1017 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—According to some information, former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy plans to resign as chairman of the Free Russia People's Party (FRPP) and to concentrate on the creation of a people's patriotic movement "Power".

Rutskoy had been a ringleader of the abortive state coup in Moscow last October and had been put into prison along with other conspirators, following the collapse of the coup. He was amnestied by the Russian parliament together with other leaders of the coup in a move to reach civic accord in the country.

However, he claimed in an interview with the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper on Friday that he was not guilty of anything, and there was no need to amnesty him. He said that the amnesty (incidentally, railroaded through parliament by his supporters and opposed by President Yeltsin) was issued by those who were eager to cover facts behind the October tragedy.

Speaking of party affairs, Vassiliy Lipitskiy, chairman of the FRPP Board, claimed in an interview with journalists on Friday on the eve of the opening of the second FRPP congress that it is too early to speak about the creation of the movement and that it will not compete the FRPP in any way.

The congress will adopt several documents, including a statement formulating the FRPP's tasks for the nearest future, which is, in actual fact, tantamount to a party programme.

According to the Board chairman who now is the actual leader of the party, the FRPP should also decide whether to sign the social accord treaty. "It is more likely, the results will be negative. But in any case, the party will examine unilateral obligations to preserve civil peace," Lipitskiy stressed.

Asked by ITAR-TASS about the party's relations with Rutskoy, the Board chairman replied that the former vice-president "was always somewhat independent of the party, and its members got accustomed to this".

He expressed doubt that there would be a serious discussion at the congress concerning Rutskoy's leadership, although, he admitted, "there is critical attitude to some of his pronouncements" among party members.

In Lipitskiy's opinion, the former vice-president "has his basis of support which is expanding".

The Board chairman pointed to the Russian Agrarian Party and some small parties of social democratic orientation as his party's closest allies. Lipitskiy said that the FRPP occupies the centrist position, which means social democratic orientation under the present conditions in Russia.

The Board chairman noted that the Civic Union bloc, of which the FRPP was a member, can be recreated only on a new basis. Its former idea of partnership between industrial managers and hired labour turned to be out of date under the present conditions, which predetermined the union's defeat at the elections.

Rutskoy Addresses Free Russia People's Party

LD2105110694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1029 GMT 21 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Alexandrova]

[Text] Moscow May 21 TASS—Former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy who was amnestied by the new Russian parliament some time after the abortive state coup in Moscow last October, delivered on Saturday an opening speech at the second congress of the Free Russia People's Party (FRPP) which he heads.

He called on the party to take its bearings, spurning down “time-serving positions and timidity” and to become a core for a broad popular patriotic movement which will take power.

He blasted the mass media, spreading, according to Rutskoy, “provocative rumours” about his possible withdrawal from the party's chairmanship and his differences with party members.

“The party should decide who will be its leader to remove contradictions and rumours, he continued. Rutskoy also insisted that the FRPP should determine its clear-cut position which, according to the former vice-president, should concentrate on striving for early presidential elections and replacing ”the anti-popular police regime“.

“A political party occupying a time-serving position, cannot lead the popular masses,” Rutskoy added.

Acting at future elections as a single whole, patriotic forces will win the victory, he claimed.

According to the FRPP chairman, the aims of a mass patriotic movement will include national cultural and spiritual revival of Russia, “restoration of great Russia within the borders of the Soviet Union, establishment of law and order in the country and creation of a socially oriented economic system.

The congress is attended by 149 delegates from 60 regional organisations. The forum will debate several documents, including a programme-setting statement and several resolutions.

Besides, as chairman of the FRPP board Vassily Lipitskiy put it, the party will possibly change its name. It regards itself a social democratic organisation, and some party members suggest that these words should be introduced into its name.

Willing To Run in Early Elections

LD2105154594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1244 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] The Honorary Chairman of the People's Party of Free Russia, ex vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy has declared that the party's prime task must be a fight for early presidential elections. Speaking at the opening of a party congress in Moscow on Saturday, he called the current official Russian policy “economic terror” and stressed that there currently was “an unpopular police regime” in power.

In Rutskoy's view, the December 12, 1993 elections showed the collapse of the centrism concept. “There can be no center between the robbers and robbed”, he noted. In his words, time has come to decide whether to agree with “the police regime” or form an opposition to it. He believes the party should initiate the merger of opposition forces “in a mighty social-patriotic movement, capable of leading the people and winning elections.” The goals of this movement, he said, will be national, cultural, and spiritual rebirth of the country, “restoration of Russia as a great power within the USSR boundaries:, fight against crime, and creation of a prosperous socially-oriented economy.

At the same time, Rutskoy admitted that adapters continued to work in the party along with those planted to destroy it. “I cannot extend a hand to those who at the most critical moment waited to see who would prevail”, Rutskoi remarked and added “time has come to get rid of the junk.” However, he recognized as justified the criticism addressed to him that he had paid neglected internal party activity and had quite often failed to consult party officials bodies in decision-making. [sentence as received]

Recalling what happened in Moscow in October of 1993, he declared: “We will never forget the died [as received] heroes , nor will we ever forgive those who shot at parliament.”

Attending the Congress are 126 delegates from 60 regional organizations. The delegates are to endorse a comprehensive party declaration and elect the steering bodies.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English during the same cast runs an additional report: “‘Confrontation being stirred up in society, may end in a social explosion, because people's tolerance has certain limits,’ the Honorary Chairman of the Free Russia Popular Party, former vice-president of the Russian Federation Aleksandr Rutskoy said.

[“In his opinion, the Russian president, the State Duma and the Federation Council should ‘listen to the voice of common sense and to take a decision on early presidential elections.’

[“‘If the elections are announced, and one of the parties, for example, the Free Russia Popular Party puts forward my candidacy, I am not going to refuse,’ Rutskoy said. In his words, ‘time is working not for the benefit of those in power.’

[“Rutskoy also said that the faction Russia's Choice in the State Duma behaves itself ‘in an insulting way’ to the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. ‘No matter what convictions Zhirinovskiy holds, he should not be called ‘a fascist,’ Rutskoy said.” (Quotation marks as received)]

Rutskoy Party Renamed Social Democratic People's Party

LD2105163694 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 21 May 94

[Video report by correspondent Aleksandr Poklad]

[Text] [Poklad] The second congress of the People's Party of Free Russia [PPFR] was held in Moscow today. A number of program documents were adopted and the powers of Aleksandr Rutskoy as party leader were confirmed. Having harshly criticized the policies of the existing power structures, he set the task of creating a nationwide social patriotic movement on the basis of the party to which centralism and compromise should be alien. In the end, this means the organizational formation of an uncompromising opposition, although Aleksandr Rutskoy himself is against such a term.

[Begin Rutskoy recording] If we are talking about an opposition, then it has to be uncompromising. Why not uncompromising? What is the point of an opposition otherwise? The opposition is there so as not to agree with what is happening in the country today, and can you agree with it? [end recording]

[Poklad] The PPFR program directives are little different from the aims proclaimed by many other parties. However, two tasks can be singled out—the restoration of the state within the frontiers of the USSR and the holding of early presidential elections in Russia. The delegates also spoke in favor of stepping up work with various sectors of the population and increasing the party's electoral readiness.

The prospects for the Social Patriotic Movement that Aleksandr Rutskoy is trying to organize are as yet unclear. However, today it is already possible to say that the uncompromising opposition has obtained a leader in him.

[Announcer] We have just received a report that the PPFR has changed its name to the Russian Social Democratic People's Party [Rossiyskaya Sotsial-Demokraticheskaya Narodnaya Partiya]. Aleksandr Rutskoy has been voted its chairman by a huge majority.

Khasbulatov Quits Politics, Returns to Academic Work

LD2105191794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1840 GMT 21 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Karlov]

[Text] Moscow May 21 TASS—Former Russian Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov has confirmed his intention to quit politics and fully devote himself to science.

In his recent interview with ITAR-TASS in Groznyy where he moved after his release from prison in February 1993, Khasbulatov said that he will return to his academic work at the Russian Academy of Economics.

One of the academy leaders said that Khasbulatov has been in charge of the Department of Foreign Economic Relations for two weeks.

Commission To Coordinate Accord Follow-Up

PM2005092594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 May 94 p 1

[Georgiy Satarov commentary: "The Commission's Purpose Is to Ensure a Process of Constant Conciliation"]

[Text] The Russian president's message to the Federal Assembly is effectively the first document of its kind to contain a separate section dedicated to the civil society.

Back in March a group of independent experts was formed to prepare a concept for the president's legislative initiative in this sphere. A parallel movement to achieve accord in our society has begun.

The Treaty on Social Accord includes proposals on the coordinated discussion of the major problems. Hence the idea has arisen—both in development of the message and of the Treaty on Social Accord—to discuss jointly a range of problems connected with support for the establishment of a civil society in Russia and, in fulfillment of that Treaty, to try to advance that area of legislative work organizationally, professionally, and in a skillful way.

However, bearing in mind that there are quite a few sources of legislative initiative and that to date, unfortunately, they are operating in a completely isolated and uncoordinated way, there must be some kind of blueprint which makes it possible to link the legislative process and sets of laws.

Work is now being completed on the creation of a mechanism for the activity of a conciliation commission, whose main task is to ensure a process of constant conciliation in accordance with the Treaty. The commission will have to support the work of the permanent "roundtables" which correspond to the various sections of the Treaty—"Political Stability in Society," "Socioeconomic Policy," and "The Security of the Citizen and Society."

It is on the activeness of all the parties signatory to the Treaty that the speed of the formation of the conciliation commission and the "roundtables" will depend. The president's structures are working on this problem, and working pretty strenuously.

Zyuganov Laments Political, Social Situation

LD2005132194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The current crisis in Russia is unprecedented in world history and is characterized by the geopolitical, social and moral break-up of society, said leader of the Communist Party of Russia, Gennadiy Zyuganov, addressing students and professors of Moscow University Thursday.

He said that operating in Russia is the regime of colonial democracy where the U.S. dollar dominates, English is commonly used and Russian culture is deteriorating. Zyuganov believes that events are developing in Russia along three lines: Russia is turning into a mafiosi-criminal state, the country is on the brink of a civil war or the coalition of left-wing and patriotic forces may come to power.

Stressing that a civil war in a country which has 27,000 nuclear warheads could cause a catastrophe, Zyuganov expressed hope that the situation will develop along the third channel. He said that representatives of the Communists, the Agrarian Party and other opposition organizations had managed to stand at the head of local bodies of power in 70 territories of the Russian federation.

He said that only a "constructive program" could become the basis for civic peace in Russia. Such a program would include a change of political course, with priority given to power engineering, agriculture, science and culture, combating crime, the elimination of social inequality, the scrapping of privatization and the restoration of the Union.

He believes that the country is now like a nuclear reactor which is being overused. Under these conditions, he said, operators must be sure to press the right buttons at the right moment, otherwise there may be an explosion, said Zyuganov.

He also gave a characterization of certain well-known politicians. He said that Yegor Gaydar had settled into the wrong office and found himself unable to look out the window and introduce corrections in the course of reforms.

Anatoliy Chubays, he said, deceived everybody with the privatization campaign and is "now selling out Russia wholesale and retail." He said that later generations will denounce Gennadiy Burbulis for being the cause of the Soviet Union's break-up.

Zyuganov said that the state post was too difficult a job for Ruslan Khasbulatov. And that only at the second stage of his political career he understood his mistakes but it was too late to correct them.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy resembles a younger brother of Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin and in essence the LDP platform differs little from what the present executive power is doing, he said.

Zyuganov also said that at the moment the Communist Party has 550,000 members which is two times more than in all other parties. The scale of public opinion leans to the left, he emphasized.

About 500 people listened to the speech by the leader of the Communist Party leader. Two-thirds of the audience were elderly people rather than students, despite taking place in the Moscow State University..

Communist Groups Call For Restoration of USSR

LD2205135494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1309 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Communist parties of the former Soviet republics are about to adjourn after a two-day closed-door conference at Gorkiy Leninskiye near Moscow.

Chairman Oleg Shenin of the Council of the Union of Communist parties—the Communist Party of the Soviet Union told Interfax Communist parties of all the former Soviet republics, excluding Kazakhstan, attended the conference. Russia was represented by the Communist party of the Russian Federation (Gennadiy Zyuganov), the Communists' Union (Aleksey Prigarin) and the Russian Communist Workers' party whose delegation was led by First Secretary Viktor Tyulkin. The leader of the party's Moscow organization Viktor Anpilov took no part in the conference.

According to Shenin, the Communist parties exchanged views in a constructive and open spirit. They agreed the union of their republics must be restored and, Shenin said, they must coordinate action.

The conference discussed the possibility of holding a second congress of the peoples of the Soviet Union in the fall of 1994. The event would be expected to focus on the restoration of the unitary state. The conference is to close with decisions on the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory in World War II and Lenin's 125th birthday anniversary.

Opposition Seen Lukewarm About Forming United Movement

MK2005111594 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 May 94 p 3

[Lev Sigal report in the "Opposition Is Looking for a Leader" column: "No Accord in the Name of Zorkin Is Working Out Yet"]

[Text] The Accord in the Name of Russia has so far failed to emerge as a powerful opposition supermovement. The founding conference of this organization, scheduled for Thursday, did not take place because organizational and technical preparations for it were not completed in time. As KOMMERSANT-DAILY predicted in its 13 May issue, the majority of opposition leaders today are not particularly interested in the accord.

The prospects for the Accord in the Name of Russia project still look uncertain. The movement initiators will apparently have to abandon their plans to encompass the entire opposition or at least a greater part of it. Ilya Kostantinov, the leader of the once notorious National Salvation Front, told KOMMERSANT-DAILY that he for one does not know anything about the organizational efforts by Mr. Zorkin and company and expressed doubt that the accord's founding conference will ever take place.

Apart from project coordinator Valeriy Zorkin, some activity toward the accord is being shown by Aleksandr Tsipko, Sergey Glazyev, Aman Tuleyev, and Petr Romanov. At the same time the initiative group has somewhat distanced itself from Aleksandr Rutskoy, who is now engaged with his own "Russian" organization, The State [Derzhava], as well as from Aleksandr Prokhanov. The initiators have shifted to the center somewhat and, unlike the ex-vice president, act on the assumption that the hopes for early presidential elections are unrealistic and therefore do not consider the question of presidential candidates. True, they say that Mr. Zorkin would like to see Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn as leader of the nation.

No doubt, the more time elapses between the emergence of the idea of the Accord and its structural organization, and the more stable the political situation in the country becomes, the farther the interests of the movement initiators are drifting apart.

Thus, observers point out that Gennadiy Zyuganov can now act independently. Aman Tuleyev and Petr Romanov are playing out a Siberian regional card; some other people would like to create a kind of industrial division of the Agrarian of Democratic Party. In this light, it is only "an opposition leaders club" whose formalization appears more or less realistic. Importantly, no one here possesses any substantial monetary resources; only communists and agrarians have human resources; and only Mr. Zorkin is trying to create an apparatus. So far, as movement cofounder Vasiliy Lipitskiy told KOMMERSANT-DAILY, a conference of movement supporters has been scheduled for 28 May which will apparently proclaim itself a National Council. The organizers hope for large and representative delegations to arrive from Siberia, Central Chernozem Region, and the South of Russia. Apparently the failure of the unification project will indicate that the crisis in the opposition has aggravated further. KOMMERSANT-DAILY will report on the conference results on 31 May.

Poll Shows 20 Percent Approve of Yeltsin

LD2005164994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1434 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—Twenty per cent of Russians surveyed said they approve of the work of President Yeltsin. About the same number had a good opinion of local authorities as well, according to a survey conducted by the "Public Opinion" fund among the country's urban and rural residents.

Answers to sociologists' questions concerning the future presidential elections revealed two tendencies. The first shows that, no matter who the presidential candidates are, from one fifth to one quarter of the respondents do not intend to vote.

The second trend shows that President Yeltsin still has the highest rating among possible candidates for the presidency. When asked to imagine that Yeltsin and Zhirinovskiy were the only candidates to pass the first round, 27 per cent of respondents said they would vote for Yeltsin, while 11 per cent favored the Liberal Democratic leader. In the same situation Yeltsin came out on top of former vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy 21 to 11 per cent, and proved more popular than his current prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, 15 to 8 per cent.

The sociologists' inquiry was answered by, with differences according to the particular question, from 1139 to 2468 respondents.

Leadership Blamed for Country's Downfall

MK2105132894 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 May 94 p 3

[Vitaliy Korionov article: "An Ally? A Client? An Enemy?"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Many will remember that soon after he took the Kremlin throne, the incumbent president described Russia's position as a country staying "in the antechamber": Soon another "revelation" followed: Apparently Russia needs to be "raised from its knees." And now other countries have been asked to use "vy" [formal mode of address] in talking with Russia. [passage omitted]

In its time Turkey was called "the sick man" of Europe. Now, increasingly, foreign press describes Russia as a seriously ailing state with a heart ready to break. Zbigniew Brzezinski reflects: If Russia is not an enemy anymore, what is it then: an ally, or a client, or simply an enemy that has suffered a defeat?

We shall not discuss today the main reason for Russia's deplorable condition. Yet one cannot but admit that the present policy makers indeed possess an exceptional talent for destruction. It is not just anyone that is capable within a few years of bringing one of the "superpowers" to its "knees," moreover with its own hands. [passage omitted]

The rapid destruction of Russian industry and agriculture and the downfall of science make Russia's position on the world arena all the more shaky. It would be naive to suppose that the Western business world would seriously reckon with a country on the verge of an economic catastrophe. To be sure, red carpets are being unrolled before the Russian president. But what is happening in reality? [passage omitted]

At the end of August the last Russian soldiers will leave Germany—the soldiers who, at the command of the whole world, made a decisive contribution to smashing the Nazi regime. Yet representatives of western states—participants in the anti-Hitler coalition—refused to take part in the sendoff ceremony. What cunning political calculations lie behind this?

Yet Russia's humiliation does not stop here. From an interview that the Russian president had with DER SPIEGEL we have learned an amazing piece of news: Yeltsin has called on the Bundeswehr "to take on peacekeeping missions not only in Yugoslavia but also in the restive CIS states." An excellent "present" to the peoples of the former USSR on the 50th anniversary of our Victory in the Great Patriotic War!

Seeing such policy by the Kremlin, the Pentagon is stepping up pressure on Moscow, demanding that joint U.S. and Russian military exercises be held in Russia's heartland. "The working people of Orenburg and Volga regions, as well as all people of Russia," says a joint statement issued on this occasion by 14 public organizations of the region and titled "U.S. Troops Have Nothing To Do On Our Soil", are pained to see how, in the course of and anti-people's reform, the country's military and economic might and its political authority are falling. The ever growing unceremoniousness, with which Western powers are openly interfering in Russia's internal affairs, arouses anger and indignation."

Many of the world's press publications also see Russia's national humiliation in the unscrupulousness shown toward Moscow by the NATO countries delivering air strikes on Bosnia, not deeming it necessary even to inform Russia about them in advance.

The picture will be more complete if it is recalled that gentlemen reformers have driven the country into the trap of powerful Western financial centers. The clutch of the IMF and the World Bank is merciless. According to THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, Russia already owes the West more than $80 billion, of which $32 billion is to be paid this year. Experts on this problems, for instance, French Professor Bernard Notain, warn: "The ongoing enslavement is setting the stage for a subsequent dismemberment of the country."

The logical question is: Who in fact has brought Russia down to its knees and forced it out into the antechamber?

FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU states, "Russia is in no position to demonstrate that cooperation with it can be fruitful, and therefore it is merely imitating activity, conditioned by helplessness."

Where will the leaders—who rather than ensure effective protection of the country's national interests, are only capable of imitating policy—steer Russia?

Chernomyrdin Seen 'Strengthening Positions'

PM2005131194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 May 94 p 4

[Irina Savvateyeva report: "Premier Strengthening Positions"]

[Text] The last few weeks have seen some quite active personnel changes in the government. The best-known are the elevation of Nikolay Travkin and the removal of Sergey Shakhray from a ministerial position. There have also been other, less-noticed events which are nonetheless very symptomatic.

The edict on Travkin's appointment as minister without portfolio was drawn up by the Presidential Staff. But analysts agree that the Democratic Party leader's promotion to the corridors of executive power did not happen without Chernomyrdin's knowledge. It is entirely possible that the initiative even came from the premier. At any rate, observers consider it beyond dispute that Viktor Stepanovich's position is now so strong that the president can no longer afford to make any changes to the government without the consent of its leader.

Why is Travkin needed?

World experience shows that it is usually representatives of major political structures that are appointed minister without portfolio. And, in terms of their influence, such ministers are often equivalent to deputy premiers.

But it does not seem as though Travkin was in a position to claim such a role. The faction he heads in parliament is one of the smallest—with just 15 people. The party he created is virtually collapsing.

Apropos of which, analysts believe that the Democratic Party of Russia [DPR] has no future. Its regional structures are coming apart at the seams. Thus, in early 1994 the DPR's entire Volgograd cell—the largest political structure in the region, with no less than 2,000 members—left to join "Russia's Choice."

Judging by everything, Chernomyrdin by no means needs Travkin because he is a DPR member. The newspapers have been speculating about his possible appointment as the government's plenipotentiary representative in the Duma. Official sources are not confirming this report, but it is entirely possible that Nikolay Ilich was asked to join the government precisely to strengthen contacts with deputies. Ultimately, he may not be called an official representative, but to all intents and purposes that is what he will be.

Analysts are assuming that Travkin could quite easily take on this role. First, he has a great deal of experience of political work. Second, he has the image of a sound, down-to-earth regular guy. So it may well be assumed that Travkin could be used in the Duma as Chernomyrdin's envoy above all with a view to conducting behind-the-scenes talks with representatives of factions for whom Nikolay Ilich's figurative and accessible way of setting out an argument is far more convincing than academic speeches by professors and other such know-it-alls who are "former laboratory chiefs."

However, Viktor Stepanovich might also have some problems with Nikolay Ilich: Travkin is not somebody else's team player. He is a leader and highly ambitious.

Although.... Chernomyrdin is said to be very good at cutting people down to size. He is not a man to be trifled with....

As for Shakhray's removal from the position of minister for nationalities affairs, this initiative most probably came direct from the president and his entourage. It is thought that the main cause of their differences was their different approach to the settlement of relations with Chechnya.

This question might seem to be a separate issue, but it touches on some serious problems. Resolving it today will mean laying the last brick in the foundations of the Russian state and ending the period of its initial construction.

The relieving of Shakhray of his duties should hardly be seen as weakening the premier's position. First, interethnic problems have traditionally been the prerogative of the Presidential Staff, and the premier kept away from them. Second, observers consider Shakhray's achievements in this post not to have been significant enough to result in a behind-the-scenes struggle over him between the president and the premier.

But let us leave the vice premiers to one side. Over the past few weeks there have been some interesting [illegible] at deputy minister level. The chronology is as [illegible]. Decisions were drawn up by the government apparatus for a closed session of the Cabinet of Ministers Presidium on the dismissal of Yakov Urinson, first deputy minister of economics, and Deputy Finance Minister Sergey Aleksashenko. But, on Premier Chernomyrdin's initiative, the question of their dismissal was not examined at the presidium session—both received a reprimand. And the other day, by a Chernomyrdin directive, Deputy Minister Yakov Urinson was accorded status equivalent to a minister.

I would note for reference purposes that Sergey Aleksashenko is a young financier. He is known as a top-ranking specialist who has liberal economic views. He is known for his independent behavior and judgments. Yakov Urinson is a career state planner. In liberal democratic circles he is known as one of the first and few apparatchiks of the old school who actively supported the idea of market reform. He is said to be particularly favored and respected by Chernomyrdin.

It seems as though there have been some major clashes over these two people (above all, Urinson) between apparatus leader Vladimir Kvasov and the premier himself.

The premier's desire of late to support the liberal-market wing of the government is due to a desire to preserve some balance of power within the Cabinet of Ministers.

After the too-independent Yegor Gaydar and Boris Fedorov were "forced out" of the Cabinet of Ministers, Chernomyrdin was left one-on-one with emboldened sector lobbyists whose appetite and the pressure they exert are constantly increasing and already pose a serious threat of catastrophic inflation.

The drama of the situation is also increased by the fact that the leader of this camp—Oleg Soskovets—is number two in the government. Chernomyrdin has been forced to leave operational work to him increasingly frequently of late, because the premier himself is becoming an increasingly political figure—he has to control relations with parliament and the presidential structure.

But Soskovets, left to his own devices with the economy, seems to have been making a lot of mistakes. For instance, at the recent congress of the Association of Russian Banks he suggested that the bankers use one-third of all their banking funds to invest in production, and half of their currency-dealing profits to support the agro-industrial complex. It is hardly surprising if, after such statements, money which had hitherto remained here starts flowing out of the country.

Thus, the balance in the government is being seriously upset. Analysts believe that there is a very great likelihood that Soskovets, Zaveryukha, and Co. will prove the stronger. In this situation the premier has been forced to support the camp of the liberal free-marketeers in the government in order to save the economy and his own political future.

This camp, which has now been considerably weakened, is represented primarily by Aleksandr Shokhin and Sergey Dubinin. But the role of Yakov Urinson has considerably increased of late. And this is why. Acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin, as insurance against the anger of dissatisfied lobbyists, is not refusing any money to anyone, but is proposing that the money be found from investment funds. And Urinson is in charge of investment. So it is not the acting finance minister but Urinson who has to tell those desperate for money that the cash is not there.

It is curious that the anti-Urinson campaign in the government (along with the anti-Aleksashenko campaign) is being headed by Vladimir Kvasov, leader of the apparatus, who has clearly been staking a claim recently to the status of independent politician. It is obvious that the civil servants' leader cannot be said to wield the same clout as the premier. Observers believe that Kvasov would be out of the picture in a trice if he started really annoying Chernomyrdin.

In short, Viktor Stepanovich is not currently to be envied. What he needs in the government now is another Fedorov—only one who talked a bit less and was able to look like a subordinate when required.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Urges Efforts To Overcome Economic Crisis

LD2005132794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1244 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—Economic measures designed to combat the crisis in Russia were discussed by President Yeltsin and the State Duma speaker during their meeting in the Kremlin today, the Russian president told journalists.

According to Yeltsin his conversation with Ivan Rybkin carried on the four-hour discussion the president had with industrialists and entrepreneurs on Thursday concerning a package of presidential decrees on economic reform which are being prepared now.

Yeltsin stressed that the press misrepresented his statement on the possible collapse of the economy on Thursday. "The collapse may occur if we do not take steps to overcome the crisis. We must make all efforts not to let the worst to happen," the president said.

Yeltsin Signs 6 Decress To Speed Up Reform

LD2305120194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1150 GMT 23 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow May 23 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin signed six economic decrees on Monday which, according to his economic adviser Aleksandr Livshits, allow the government to speed up reforms.

Livshits told a briefing that "true reforms in the Russian economy have not begun yet" and that the presidential decrees will help to initiate them.

One of the documents instructs the government to submit a lawbill to parliament which will decrease the major taxes by 10-20 per cent, including the VAT and profit tax, and grant an easy taxation regime to joint ventures engaged in production. The total number of taxes is also to be decreased.

Another decree abolishes the system of quoting and licensing exports which Livshits called "an atavism of socialist economy". Privileges in import duties are also cancelled.

Besides, Yeltsin ordered enterprises to pay their debts to each other and wages to employees by converting finances on their hard currency accounts. The absence of circulating assets can no longer be used as an explanation for non-payments.

Another decree obliges all legal entities to register with taxation services before opening bank accounts. Otherwise they will be fined and then closed.

"Now the government has a normative base to boost reforms, a base which, regrettably, the parliament does not hurry to provide. The government has to initiate a concrete programme of actions", Livshits said.

Chernomyrdin Details Economic Situation

LD2005165894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1459 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—Russia has her own way of entering the market, her own model of development, announced Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin on Thursday at a meeting with the heads of enterprises and organisations in the spheres of industry, construction and transportation. The meeting was held immediately after another signing ceremony during which business and organisation heads affixed their names to the Treaty on Social Accord.

Chernomyrdin stressed that the treaty is a historically important document which creates the conditions for the stabilisation of Russia's political and economic life. Russia is paying a steep price for reforms, the premier noted, and gave a detailed account of the economic situation in the country.

The prime minister declared that the government's number one task was to keep spending within the parameters of the budget. A series of presidential decrees and governmental resolutions have already been prepared with the goal of improving the economic situation and strengthening the Policy of Social Accord. These steps are designed to "redirect the restructuring of the economy in favor of the domestic producer", he said.

The premier reffered, in particular, to the lowering of several tax rates this year, to the cancellation of taxes on investments, to the significant lowering of customs duties on oil, gas, aluminum, pulp and the other main components of the Russian export, as well as the cancellation of quotas and mandatory licensing for exports. This summer will already witness the lowering of the amount companies are required to put into the social security fund, which is one form of taxes. As the government implements its plan to sharply improve the efficiency of the tax-collecting agencies, it hopes to be able to reduce the over-all tax load by 10 to 20 per cent next year.

According to Chernomyrdin, the government envisions requiring banks to report the opening of an account by a firm, and also taking additional measures on debt circulation, including the possibility of extinguising the debts of unviable enterprises by confiscating their property.

The premier especially pointed out the necessity of strengthening executive discipline on every level. "Without discipline we will not be able to do anything in this country", he emphasized.

He said that regulatory measures would be adopted to decrease the salary gap in various sectors of the economy, including in the government.

Yeltsin Aide Favors Enlarged Economy Ministry

PM2005110394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 May 94 First Edition p 2

[BIZNES-TASS report: "Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations May Merge With Ministry of the Economy"]

[Text] All economic policy should be coordinated from one center, which could be the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy. So said Yevgeniy Yasin, leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff Analysis Center, in an exclusive interview for a BIZNES-TASS correspondent.

What would the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations do, given that there are no state foreign economic associations? It would be expected to work out customs tarrifs, foreign economic regulation, and so on. But these instruments also constitute highly important instruments of structural policy.

"So it is that, from my viewpoint, the concentration of forces in the Ministry of the Economy is the sensible option for the purposes of hammering out a uniform economic policy. There are a number of new people right now who think rationally and who are capable of taking decisions which would be useful to the country," Yevgeniy Yasin concluded.

Social Policy for Improving Living Standard Approved

LD2105180594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1726 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 21 TASS—The Russian Government adopted on Saturday main guidelines of social policy in 1994 aimed at stabilisation and gradual improvement of living standards in Russia.

The document signed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin obliges all federal executive bodies to draw up their programmes of targeted social assistance and wage increases on these guidelines.

They call in particular for measures to stop further decreases of wages and salaries, balance economic interests and material possibilities of three major categories of the population—employees, entrepreneurs and disabled people, reform the social sphere and increase the role of the state in employment and retraining of citizens.

The document also envisages establishing efficient private ownership of housing and preservation of housing subsidies for lower income families.

Need for Grain Imports To Be Determined in Fall

PM2005143094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 May 94 p 1

[Yelena Yakovleva report: "Can Russia Get By Without Importing Grain? We Will Know the Answer in the Fall"]

[Text] Will Russia be buying grain abroad this year or will it make do with its own resources?

Despite the frequent statements by Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha to the effect that there are enough grain reserves in the country to enable us to do without imports, this issue is keeping Western business circles in a state of tension.

For example, the British weekly PUBLIC LEDGER has stated that "some Russians" made an appearance on the U.S. market at the beginning of May and "intimated that they require grain immediately" (250,000 tonnes of durum wheat and 150,000 tonnes of soft wheat). These Russians were Leonid Cheshinskiy, president of the "Roskhleboprodukt" RKK [expansion unknown], and Aleksandr Belik, president of the "Eksportkhleb" Joint-Stock Company.

Petr Tolstopyatenko, deputy director of the "Zerno" firm (the former Main Administration for Grain Purchases) confirmed that this trip did take place, but it does not provide an answer to the question of whether or not Russia will import grain. It is impossible to give an answer to this question until spring sowing has been completed, which will not be before 1 June at the earliest. In his opinion, the prospects for the Russian harvest are good: Crops sown in the fall have wintered well, and the area sown in the spring is getting bigger without any exhortations or goading, since the production of this sort of wheat is highly profitable.

According to Tolstopyatenko, the country possesses both "emergency" state reserves of grain (approximately 18 million tonnes) and nonstate reserves. Thus, kolkhozes and sovkhozes have been holding 700,000 tonnes of wheat in storage at their elevators since last harvest. There are reserves of millet for making course-ground millet, oats, and corn for making groats. So rumors about the need for immediate supplies have been exaggerated, most likely by the Western press. At least, Leonid Cheshinskiy did not recognize himself in the story as it was portrayed by the Western press.

Andrey Sizov, general director of the "SovEkon" research center, explained that L. Cheshinskiy and A. Belik did indeed visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture at the beginning of May and asked the price of U.S. grain. But they were talking about a commercial deal rather than state purchases. The independent firm "Roskhleboprodukt," pursuing its private interests, wanted to buy 400,000 tonnes of wheat for its own money without taking out government loans to do so, which used to be the norm.

Asked why the corporation should wish to purchase grain abroad when, according to A. Zaveryukha, reserves of home-grown grain total 18 million tonnes and there is probably even more stored away in kolkhoz barns, Andrey Sizov replied that the corporation is doubtless making preparations for a coming grain price war. This very day the Russian Agriculture Ministry announced that agricultural producers are asking 180,000-200,000 rubles per tonne of grain. If the high cost of transportation and storage is added to this, Russian grain could work out more expensive than grain from overseas: The Russians were offering the Americans grain at $100 a tonne (including freight). All the indications are that "Roskhleboprodukt" is looking for a cheap commodity to beat down the price of grain from the new harvest on the Russian market.

It is true that the Americans did not sell their grain at $100 a tonne, thinking this to be too cheap. But there is also the European market, where grain is traditionally more expensive while transportation is cheaper.

In Andrey Sizov's opinion, "Roskhleboprodukt's" emergence on the world market as an independent commercial organization is well timed: The state would be obliged to purchase U.S. grain since it is bound by credit relations. But the fact that the market can be exploited is in itself gratifying.

And so A. Zaveryukha's assurances remain valid, he is responsible for state reserves and has the right to draw his own conclusions. The "Roskhleboprodukt" corporation has announced its presence in the world market on the basis of its own commercial interests, the harvest forecasts will be clarified at the beginning of June, and we will get a precise answer to the question of whether our country can do without grain imports in the fall.

According to data from "SovEkon," the chances of exporting Russian grain abroad are not very great. For example, the country has small rye reserves, but rye is not much in demand on the world market.

Reorienting ourselves toward imports from CIS countries is also an unreliable option: Last year our trading partner Kazakhstan delivered 1 million tonnes of grain under the intergovernmental agreement instead of the promised 3 million tonnes. Judging by the weather and fuel problems that have been dogging the Kazakh harvest, supplies are unlikely to increase this year.

World Bank Agrees $200 Million Loan for Banks

LD2005090394 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0730 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The Worl Bank's Board of Directors approved a loan of $200 million to Russia. The statement from the major international credit and financial organization says that these funds will be directed to giving technical assistance to private banks and to helping Russia's Central Bank to train inspectors and to create a system of early discovery of problem banks. The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, the European Community, and private investors will also take part in financing this program.

The $200 million is being granted to Russia for a term of 17 years. No payments need to be made on it for the first five years.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Pacific Fleet Head's Removal Prompted by 'Intrigues'

MK2005105894 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 20 May 94 p 1

[Dmitriy Kholodov report: "It Turns Out that Admirals Can Sink, Too. Underwater Currents in the Pacific..."]

[Text] Despite strict official explanations, many officers at the Defense Ministry and the General Staff are more and more often comparing the explosions of the Pacific Fleet arsenals with those that rocked the North Caucasus during the withdrawal of the Russian Army from the area. One is getting the impression that the Defense Ministry is "disarming" itself in this unconventional fashion by destroying excess reserves without taking any unnecessary trouble. Suggestions that Admiral Gurinov, commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet, may have been fired for reasons other than the latest explosion also incline one toward this theory.

The situation at the Northern Fleet, say, is hardly any better, if not much worse. While an arsenal blew up at the Pacific Fleet, the Northern Fleet saw a much more serious incident: nuclear materials were stolen twice within a month there. But the fleet commander has emerged from the incidents unscathed.

Once he arrived in the fleet following the tragedy on the Russkiy island last year, Admiral Gurinov launched a flurry of activity, trying to create some semblance of a Navy out of the Pacific Fleet, or rather out of its remnants. But the inertia of disintegration had gone so far that the energetic admiral was scarcely able to accomplish anything within so short a period. Meanwhile, Grachev waited for reports of drastic change. But no rosy reports were forthcoming. Gurinov reported to Moscow that the situation was extremely unfavorable in virtually all areas. Moreover, on that same Russkiy island several more tragic incidents occurred, also because of paralysis; it was ordered to keep them strictly secret. The fleet continued to degenerate. Furthermore, the new commander appeared to have decided to put an end to lavish receptions for ministerial commissions, a move that added fuel to the fire.

But according to an old tradition of top authorities in Russia it was "something personal" that appears was the last straw. A Japanese company undertook to mediate the sale of the Pacific Fleet's 12 decommissioned diesel submarines to North Korea. Somehow the State Property Committee also stuck to the deal drawing on support from a very high-ranking official at the Defense Ministry. Once the first two submarines were sent to North Korea for dismantling, a universal outcry was raised that the North Koreans could use the submarines as combat ships (after repairs and the installation of weapons). Journalists demanded explanations from the Pacific Fleet command.

Then the angered admiral Gurinov took a step unheard of in the Armed Forces. In his interview for a major news agency he said that the deal was for some reason sponsored by the State Property Committee and was struck at the consent of the defense minister, who did not even think it necessary to advise the Pacific Fleet commander of what percentage of the deal the fleet would get. A number of informed sources at the Defense Ministry started openly saying that Gurinov's career after that could be considered finished.

At a meeting of the Defense Ministry collegium in early May, where the level of combat training of the Army and the Navy in the first six months of this year was assessed, Grachev, as the saying goes, razed the Pacific Fleet to the ground.

Naval commanders are becoming increasingly petty. These are not Ushakov, Nakhimov, or Kornilov. This time, Russia has lost yet another "unlucky" admiral. To all appearances, he fell victim to intrigues at the ministerial palace, not battles for improving the fleet's combat readiness.

Officers Unhappy With Admiral's Appointment

PM2005143694 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 20 May 94 p 1

[Boris Glebov report under the "Details" rubric: "Ammunition Explosion Undermined Admiral's Career"]

[Text] The blowing up of ammunition dumps of the Pacific Fleet's Air Force has evidently irreversibly undermined the official career of Admiral Georgiy Gurinov, commander of the Pacific Fleet. But his removal from his post and the appointment of Vice Adm. Igor Khmelnov to act as commander have certainly not sent the Pacific Fleet's officers into great raptures. Moreover, many of the fleet's cadre officers are openly voicing their categorical protest at such a substitution.

One Pacific Fleet officer, who asked not to be named, declared that the fleet's officers are displeased because Vice Adm. Khmelnov (until recently Adm. Gurinov's deputy) does not, unfortunately, command significant authority in the Pacific Fleet. Moreover, some Pacific Fleet officers directly name Vice Adm. Khmelnov among those probably responsible for the recent disaster (the blowing up of the Pacific Fleet Air Force's combat supplies)!

The point is that directly after a similar explosion in the Pacific Fleet last year it was Vice Adm. Khmelnov who was entrusted with investigating the causes of what happened and taking measures to prevent the possibility of a repetition of such disasters in the future. The vice admiral reported back on the work done. Now a year has passed, there has been a new and far more terrible disaster...and Pacific Fleet officers are amazed that Vice Adm. Khmelnov is at once being appointed to command the fleet, and is being appointed at a time when we can still see the smoking ruins of the weapons dumps for whose safety Vice Adm. Khmelnov personally was responsible....

Flagrant sloppiness and negligence in guarding the arsenal caused the Pacific Fleet's aviation dumps to blow up.

The Pacific Fleet's counterintelligence staffers have established that one of the sentries, during his rest period after being relieved from his post, found an electrical assembly of a missile's solid-propellant booster in the dump's grounds and started taking it apart with a knife. Another sentry of the same shift was nearby. A blow from the knife caused the propellant charge to ignite, and the sentry could think of nothing better to do than to throw the burning electrical assembly into a thicket of last year's grass, which at once caught fire. A stack of rockets was nearby! The fire embraced it, and a few minutes later an explosion thundered forth.

The sentries fled the scene without taking measures to extinguish the fire or notifying the unit's command.

The garrison's military prosecutor's office has instituted criminal proceedings in this regard, and the investigation is continuing.

Army Commander Praises Grachev's Leadership

MK2005111094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 May 94 p 3

[Ilya Bulavinov report under the "News Conference by Army Commander in Chief" rubric: "Pavel Grachev Comes To Know His Friends in Need"]

[Text] Even at a critical time when the Army's fate effectively hangs in the balance, the Russian top brass have remained true to the principle of unity of command and only come closer together in the face of an "external" threat of underfinancing. This at least was proved by the results of yesterday's news conference by Colonel General Vladimir Semenov, commander in chief of the Army.

General Semenov started his speech with comments on the KOMMERSANT-DAILY material published on 19 May, which spoke about the possible heightening of tensions among top commanders of the Russian Armed Forces following the adoption of the 1994 draft federal budget. The general pointed out as an unquestionably positive development that the spirit of the Defense

Ministry collegium "under the current minister" differs significantly from what it was before 1991. In his view, commanders are now free to voice their opinions on various problems, whether or not they coincide with those of the minister At the same time, if the collegium makes any decision "we are obliged to implement it." Precisely this scenario was predicted, among others, by KOMMERSANT-DAILY observers in the material cited by Mr. Semenov.

Given that, one could make a more accurate suggestion. The generals' reluctance to use as auspicious a subject as the budget for criticizing the minister's activity appears to testify not only to Pavel Grachev's firm positions at the ministry itself, but also to a lack of serious complaints about him from Boris Yeltsin. The latter suggestion was confirmed by Vyacheslav Kostikov, who said at a briefing yesterday that the president fully supported Pavel Grachev politically and morally. Otherwise, the generals, who tend to be keenly sensitive to upcoming political upheavals, would not have spoken so kindly about their current boss's activity.

As for the content of the news conference, General Semenov, as expected, complained of a lack of money. Nonetheless, in his words, the Army's prospects do not look altogether hopeless.

Defense Officials on Dangers of Reduced Budget

LD2105142194

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1830 GMT on 20 May, in an item from the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry, carries a report on the controversy over the defense expenditure projected in Russia's federal budget. It includes undated interviews with Sergey Yushenkov, Russian State Duma defense committee chairman, and Russian Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin. On the subject of a reduced defense budget, Yushenkov says the following:

"A situation is emerging whereby the reduction of expenditure on defense is already, if you like, crossing a definite physiological boundary beyond which disintegration begins. In principle, it is no longer possible to reduce defense expenditure, because all of this could assume a catastrophic appearance.

"In this connection, I'll just cite one instance linked to a recent event: the explosion of the stores on the turf. This was a direct consequence of the Defense Ministry being neither properly funded nor sufficiently equipped to maintain, store, and guard these munitions. Sixty-five trillion rubles is the minimum figure."

On the effect underfunding is having on Russia's technological defense capability, Kokoshin says:

"Our misfortune and our greatness is that traditionally everything we have that is most valuable has been concentrated in the defense complex. If we lose that now, we will find ourselves hurled back 10 years. We wouldn't recover from that for a very long time. History won't forgive us if we lose that now."

The Mayak reporter then reports that Yushenkov suspects the cuts are not based on economic considerations alone, saying: "In the opinion of Sergey Yushenkov, it cannot be ruled out that certain forces have an interest in seeing a sharp cut in defense outlay. In this way they are counting on aggravating the social tension in the armed forces and using it for their political aims."

Army Attempts To Increase Budget Allocation Reported

LD2205215394 Moscow NTV in Russian 1700 GMT 22 May 94

[Video report by correspondent Aleksandr Gerasimov; from the "Itogi" program]

[Text] Last week passions again broke out around the Russian budget. As our program predicted last week, the Defense Ministry attempted to increase budget expenditure on the Armed Forces and the military-industrial complex. Apart from that, Vladimir Shumeyko, the speaker of parliament's upper chamber, stated somewhat unexpectedly for the uninitiated, that the Federation Council will not approve the law on the draft budget in its current form.

[Gerasimov] The Russian military, deeply offended by the amount allocated to them by the state budget last week, conducted a mass attack on legislators on the eve of the adoption of the budget by the State Duma. The State Duma Defense Committee, concerned by the results of the underfinancing of the Army, came out with a decision on increasing the military share from 37 to 55 trillion rubles. The last time that financing of troops took up 30 percent of the state budget was in the USSR in 1940 before the Second World War.

However, this circumstance in no way reflects the real situation. Today, 60 percent of defense expenditure is on social provisions. The withdrawal of troops from the distant and near abroad, unprecedented in history, and support for the infrastructure of military bases eat up a significant part of the budget.

According to Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin, the Army is up to its ears in expenditure. For several years exercises have not been above regimental level and the number of inspection trips has fallen sharply, as has the receipt of new equipment. Andrey Kokoshin claims that 55 trillion does not mean a luxury life for the military, but money to stop the collapse of the Army. [Video shows Kokoshin addressing news conference]

[Begin Kokoshin recording] It is absolutely not question of our are preparing for a major war, although you always have to be vigilant in this regard, and to a certain degree, defense capability is one of the main factors in preventing war. But the fact is that we need a minimum level to provide for the viability of the Armed Forces and preserve the unique defense producers, and preserve the opportunities for the Armed Forces, when the country is richer, when the country gets to its feet, to get hold of first class military equipment. [end recording]

[Gerasimov] In the meantime, the Federation Council has seriously worked on support for the military budget. Its speaker, Vladimir Shumeyko, last week visited the Ivanovo strategic missile forces division. In his opinion, the Army today is the only stable institution of Russian statehood and it is dangerous for the state to save money on it. Vladimir Shumeyko said That the upper chamber of the Federal Assembly will only approve a budget that will be capable of strengthening the Armed Forces.

[Begin Shumeyko recording] What does 55 mean? Is it enough or not? I am not prepared to go into these figures with you today. I am far from simply relying on figures. Until we sit down and check each article on each branch of the Armed Forces calmly, maybe it will not be 30 or 55. Because I have spoken with Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin and know how difficult it is for the government today, how difficult it is to make allocations to the military in these conditions where there is a lack of revenue in the budget, especially when the agro-industrial complex is making demands, and so on. It will be necessary to defend every kopeck. Maybe it will be 57 or 48. [end recording]

[Gerasimov] At the same time, according to a statement by General Vorobyev, the chief military financier, the money allocated by the Defense Ministry is barely enough to pay off the debts for supplies of equipment and weapons. The military budget approved by the State Duma in its first reading may deprive Russia of its strategic nuclear forces, the basis of ensuring national security. A new system created on the basis of solely Russian enterprises and constructors bureaus must replace the missile complex reaching the end of its guaranteed life. If this program is disrupted, then by the year 2000 Russia will have only 90 strategic missile launchers, which will lead to the complete destruction of nuclear parity with the United States.

Igor Sergeyev, the commander in chief of the Strategic Missile Forces, thinks that at current levels of finance the introduction of new missiles will be postponed indefinitely and his department will not be in a condition to carry out its present volume of tasks.

[Begin Sergeyev recording] We have to start their introduction in 1995 to replace the 300 launchers that we have destroyed up to the present time, in accordance with the quota where the Americans chose 3,500 and we chose 3,000. We believe that this will be sufficient, but they needed to be assembled, they will not just appear. As of today, if you take 100 percent of the finance planned for this area, at the present time we are financed only for four percent. [end recording]

[Gerasimov] The combination of arguments produced by the military to justify the necessity of increasing their share of the budget will most likely convince the legislators, moreover, since the State Duma is the only state body that has not yet expressed a positive attitude toward additional finance for the Army. The president and the Cabinet of Ministers have already supported an increase in the budget to 55 trillion rubles. The military's main ace is that political sympathy in an as yet unstable society remains on their side.

Program Examines 'Dire State' of Russian Navy

LD2205100794

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 0600 GMT on 22 May 1994 broadcasts the 30- minute "Test Range" program entitled "How To Stay Afloat," which reports on the apparently successful efforts of St. Petersburg's Zvezda Association, which produces ship engines, to survive in the absence of orders from the Russian Navy. This it achieved by laying off half its work force and soliciting orders abroad. The program includes extensive video of the factory's workspace, as well as footage of a 5000 hp engine, described as unique by the factory's chief designer, and a high-speed coastal patrol vessel named 'Zubr' being built along with the Almaz Works.

While the focus was on Zvezda, the theme of the program was the decline of the Russian Navy and the advances of its' U.S. rival.

The voiceover introduced the program thus: "At the start of the last decade our country had the reputation of being a great naval power and possessed—after the United States—the second most powerful navy. People were afraid of us and therefore respected us. Now they are not afraid and have no respect. Otherwise, our submarines would not run into American submarines off our northern shores, Japanese fishermen would not catch fish in our territorial waters, and the Chinese would not set a new demarcation line at their discretion on the Amur border river."

During the program, the following snippets of information on the dire state of the Russian Navy entitled "for your consideration" were displayed on-screen at intervals:

"The Russian Navy's share of the military budget is 50 percent less than that of the French Navy, a factor of 2.5 less than that of the British Navy, and a factor of four less than that of the U.S. Navy."

"In the opinion of specialists, the level of the fall in ship-building production during the implementation of conversion programs should not exceed eight to 10 percent a year. Production in Russia has fallen by more than 40 percent. This threatens the fleet with losses."

"Russia's shipyards have not begun building any new surface vessels in two years. Submarines are being scrapped that have done 15 years' service instead of the requisite 25. The number of submarines has been halved over the last six years. The Mediterranean and Indian Ocean squadrons have ceased to exist."

"In the opinion of U.S. specialists, the military capacity of the Navy will double by the year 2000 in comparison with 1993 as a result of ship perfection. In Russia, out of the 548 ships that made up the military structure of the Navy in 1992, there will remain 300 obsolete ships by the year 2000."

Manufacturers Allowed Independent Access to Arms Market

PM2305135594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 May 94 p 3

[Aleksandr Sychev report: "Moscow Introduced Arms Trade Monopoly in November, and Revoked It in May"]

[Text] The Russian Government has authorized industrial enterprises in the military-industrial complex and weapons manufacturers to export their own military equipment and supplies, and to sign contracts with foreign partners and cooperate with them.

This decree was adopted right in the wake of the president's decree dated 18 November of last year, which established a state monopoly in Russia on military-technical cooperation; the state company "Rosvooruzheniye," formed several months ago, was entrusted with its implementation.

The reestablishment of a monopoly was attributed to the fact that the liberalization of the arms trade which had been conducted over several years had led to substantial currency losses because of the commercial incompetence of enterprises, competition between establishments which had the right to enter foreign markets, and the emergence of a large number of parasitical intermediary firms. By and large, whereas in 1987 the USSR sold approximately $22 billion worth of arms, in 1993 Russia was only able to earn around 2 billion.

Does the government decree repeal the presidential edict? The president's press service advised IZVESTIYA to think for itself. The Interdepartmental Commission for Military-Technical Cooperation Between the Russian State and Foreign Counties believes that there are no contradictions between the two documents. The draft decree was prepared over a period of 18 months, Nikolay Bogdanov, senior secretary of the commission, said. It was reexamined after about 20 general designers and directors of military-industrial complex enterprises sent the president an appeal demanding that the manufacturer be given back the right to sell his own output independently on foreign markets. The president instructed the commission to sort the matter out.

The investigation resulted in a decision being adopted by the commission—in whose work representatives of all institutions and firms interested in military-technical cooperation are participating—to submit the draft decree for ratification by the government.

Only the manufacturers will be able to trade in arms. Private trading companies and middlemen have been excluded from the lists of possible contenders, Nikolay Bogdanov said. Furthermore, every enterprise will have to undergo strict attestation and obtain a license. A decision will be adopted by members of the commission on the principle of consensus. The "Rosvooruzheniye" State Company fully retains the functions of price control.

According to Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, the president's representative in the "Rosvooruzheniye" State Company, who has been entrusted with the functions of monitoring the observance of legality in the arms trade, it will be impossible to avoid the expansion of the number of participants in military-technical cooperation. Both manufacturers who offer the commodity and consumers exist throughout the world. Relations between them are regulated by tough laws and are put into practice under state supervision. The complexity of Russia's position is that it does not have a law on arms trade.

Marshal Shaposhnikov believes that the government decree will be implemented gradually, which will make it possible to adopt a law, a draft of which has already been prepared. Every application for a license by an enterprise will be studied carefully.

Arms Company Concerned Over External Sales

MK2105125594 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 21 May 94 p 8

[Leonid Zavarskiy report: "'Rosvooruzheniye' Company Press Conference. A Small-Caliber Show to be Held In Vladimir"]

[Text] The "Rosvooruzheniye" state arms company held a news conference in Vladimir yesterday devoted to a firearms and small-caliber artillery weaponry show from 24 to 28 May. While rather representative delegations of potential foreign buyers are expected to be on hand at the show, "Rosvooruzheniye" representatives seem to be worried by other problems.

Russia has two fairs selling its arms—in Nizhniy Novgorod (heavy combat equipment) and in Vladimir (small arms). As was announced at the news conference, the May exhibition in Vladimir will showcase many of the latest models of small and special arms including models not yet mass-produced. They are mainly portable submachine guns (in particular the "Vikhr" and the 9A-93 model) superior to the Israel's Usi, as well as individual weapons of an "enhanced stopping power"—the "Gyurza" pistol, and the "Udar" 12.7mm revolver. Right there at the show (it will cost 170 million rubles) one would be able to buy sporting guns made in Tula and Izhevsk plants.

The troubles involved in arranging the show are much less than the anxiety clearly plaguing the "Rosvooruzheniye" company. The point is that the government decree of 8 May 1994 grants weapons manufacturers the right to independent external economic activity. According to Colonel Aleksandr Semenov, deputy chief of the "Rosvooruzheniye's" regional policy administration, the decree does not rule out cooperation between the company and the manufacturers as regards marketing, looking for customers, and pricing. However, Mr. Semenov said, the "Rosvooruzheniye" is yet to make sense of the decree whose issue came for the company as somewhat a surprise. "Rosvooruzheniye" representatives were more specific talking in the press conference lobby—they thought the government decree clashes with the president's edict under which the company was set up. According to one guess, the decree was just a "tranquilizer" given to the arms manufacturers many of whom "reacted rather nervously to the setting up of a state monopolist in the shape of the "Rosvooruzheniye."

Pacific Fleet Official Downplays Radiation Hazard

OW2005061594 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 0605 GMT 18 May 94

[V. Voropayev report over video; from the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[Text] Representatives of the Pacific Fleet consider the concern of domestic and foreign nature conservationists about the problem of liquid radioactive waste in the Maritime Kray unfounded. Valeriy Danilyan, chief of the fleet service of radioactive and chemical defense, related at a meeting with Greenpeace movement activists that the radioactivity of this waste was so low—0.07 to 0.08 curie—that it could be compared to the background radiation of the Sea of Japan, and did not endanger it in any way. Furthermore, the economic expenses of constructing an unnecessary, in principle, complex for processing the waste promise to be very substantial. However, international experts do not share such a complacent attitude, and believe that both Russia and Japan, which volunteered to help it, procrastinate in an unforgivable manner in solving the problem of utilization of nuclear waste in the Maritime Kray.

Yeltsin Aide Urges Return of Processed Nuclear Waste

LD2005085994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0826 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—"The now existing intergovernmental agreements on the processing of radioactive wastes on Russian territory may be revised. In any case, the Inter-departmental Commission for Ecological Safety of the Russian Security Council has moved to include without fail an article in those documents, laying down that the processed wastes should be returned to the countries from where they had arrived," Chairman of the Commission Aleksey Yablokov stated here today.

There are several legislative acts in Russia today, regulating the processing of foreign radioactive wastes on its territory. For instance, the law on the protection of the environment prohibits the import and storage of such wastes on Russian territory. However, Russia's intergovernmental agreements with Finland, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and the former German Democratic Republic stipulate that wastes from nuclear power plants, built in those countries with the participation of the USSR, should be processed in Russia. No such document was signed with Hungary. Yablokov said that Russia could, in principle, continue the job of processing radioactive wastes, but only at the request of foreign states, on a commercial basis, and with their obligatory "repatriation".

There is a special plant at Chelyabinsk-45, but it is able to process wastes only from nuclear-propelled submarines and VVER-type reactors. The construction of the Krasnoyarsk-26 plant, designed to process wastes from RBMK (Chernobyl-type) reactors, has still not been completed. More than two trillion roubles are needed to finish the project. Yablokov said that the Russian Ministry for Atomic Energy was planning to meet a part of this sum by concluding an agreement with Hungary. However, the money that it will get from this is obviously not enough, the specialist said.

Yablokov also believes that "it is high time to revise the closed nuclear cycle concept", used until now. According to this system, enriched uranium and plutonium from nuclear power plants were used to make nuclear warheads. But since they are no longer needed, radioactive materials could "simply be kept for several tens of years" in special storages. They would lose much of their radioactivity by the end of that period and could be safely buried.

Nuclear Safety Official on Unsafe Moscow Reactors

MK2005123194 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 May 94 p 2

[INTERFAX report under the "In Brief" rubric"]

[Text] While there are currently more than 50 nuclear research plants in operation on the territory of Moscow, none of the working nuclear reactors have safety devices such as protective hoods, for example, measuring up to safety standards. Nevertheless, only three reactors have been shut down since 1992 on the site of the Kurchatov Research Center, and they could be back in use again shortly. This has been advised by Vladimir Kuznetsov, chief of the Moscow inspectorate of the State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety.

Progress M-23 Spacecraft Launched

LD2205075694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0720 GMT 22 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 22 TASS—A Progress M-23 cargo spacecraft, launched from Baykonur Cosmodrome at seven hours 30 minutes 02 seconds, Moscow daylight saving time, on Sunday, was put into orbit with the following parameters:

—Maximum distance from the Earth surface—247 km,
—minimum distance from the Earth surface—192 km,
—orbital period—88.6 minutes,
—orbital inclination—51.6 degrees.

The onboard systems of the spacecraft are functioning properly.

The spacecraft is to deliver 2,207 kilogrammes of various cargoes to the orbital station Mir. The two spacecrafts are to dock on May 24.

Progress M-22 Spacecraft Completes Flight

LD2305070594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0625 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Flight Control Center, 23 May (ITAR-TASS)—The flight of the unmanned transport craft "Progress M-22" has been completed. The separation of the space cargo craft from the "Mir" complex was effected at 0457 Moscow time today. After orientation in space and braking, with the aid of the craft's engine installation, the "Progress M-22" craft went into a descent trajectory, entered the dense layers of the Earth's atmosphere, and ended its existence.

For Viktor Afanasyev, Yuriy Usachev, and Valeriy Polyakov, a routine cycle of geophysical research is planned for today. The cosmonauts are to carry out surveys of the Earth's land masses and oceans and carry out a number of experiments to obtain information about the state of the Earth's ozone layer.

In order to determine the dynamic characteristics of the "Mir" complex, comprising a complicated space system, the "Rezonans" experiment will be carried out.

Federal Assembly

Baburin Warns 'Very Great Danger' of Crimean Coup

LD2005153494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 20 May 94

[Excerpt] Russia's State Duma has instructed its committees on international affairs, security, defense, and CIS affairs to inform this evening's session of the chamber about the situation in the Crimea. This motion was tabled by Deputy Sergey Baburin, who stressed that there is a very great danger of the Ukrainian leadership staging a coup d'etat in the Crimea. [passage omitted]

Duma Defense Committee Discusses 1994 Budget

MK2005113294 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 May 94 p 1

[Vladimir Yermolin report: "Could 18 Trillions Be Found?"]

[Text] An expanded sitting of the State Duma Defense Committee chaired by Sergey Yushenkov on Thursday was devoted to the upcoming second reading of the draft law "On The 1994 Federal Budget." While the spotlight was certainly on the defense budget, the main question was—what can and should be done to add the needed 18 trillion rubles [R] to the budget.

Vyacheslav Mozgalev, spokesman for the Ministry of the Economy, put it straight that given the planned defense appropriations (R37 trillion) Russia could have no defense as such as early as by August. That is to say there is also a clear realization in the government quarters (something one could have hardly doubted) that the defense appropriations in the draft law are absolutely inadequate. The Finance Ministry, that eternal opponent of the Defense Ministry, in the shape of its spokesman Andrey Astakhov generally agreed that it is hard to maintain the army with this money.

Attempts were made at the session to pry open some "hidden reserves." By hiking the tax on super-profits? It was instantly recognized as being naive because only the lazy do not conceal the real profits of their enterprises today. What about levying a tax on paychecks, not those in publicly financed organizations but those in the "private" sector that exceed one million and more? What else? To levy an additional (defense) tax on commercial banks and, of course, to wring out the greatest possible amount from privatizing state property?

All agreed that the planned privatization revenues in the draft budget are absurdly low. Some other suggestions were voiced and accepted for discussion. Still it was obvious to everyone that an increase of the budget deficit through additional state appropriations is inevitable....

The Finance Ministry spokesman tried to accuse the military of slowing reforms, as if suggesting that this is the crux of the matter. This was objected to by First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin and Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff. They gave facts, too. The general truth that "reforms are costly" was illustrated in particular by the following example. The lack of funds for converting and recycling arms and military equipment makes it necessary to preserve the subunits and units to maintain these arms and equipment. For example, some 1,500 sailors serve on obsolete nuclear submarines of the Northern Fleet. Clearly, you cannot leave a nuclear reactor untended. But this is no longer either armed forces or defense. This is a security threat in a sense. As is the 40,000 tonnes of chemical weapons for whose destruction not a brass copper has been earmarked yet. Or take such a question as discharge of 100,000 officers under the forces reduction plan. This means paying each 20 monthly salaries, discharge money, providing housing.... There is no money for all that, although that is no compensation for the great number of those wishing to accuse the army of lacking reform.

Generally, one could hear at the session so many depressing facts and statistics that someone unprepared and of vulnerable mind would be better off not knowing them. Recognizing that it is important to probe at the reasons for why we have ended up in such a fix, Sergey Yushenkov still urged the audience to think about short-term prospects, about what should be done.

LDPR Boycotts Duma Session in Protests of 'Lies'

LD2005171594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Igor Vykhukholev] The State Duma of Russia's Federal Assembly also intends to hear a report on the situation in the Crimea during this evening's session.

[Correspondent Vlada Vishnevskaya] At the request of a section of deputies, the Duma's Committees on International Affairs, Security, and Defense will today report to the lower house on the situation that has developed over the Crimea. A substantial proportion of the Duma's session was taken up with a debate on a draft resolution setting up parliament's own TV and radio service. Diametrically opposed points of view were expressed during the debate. Russia's Choice deputies pointed out the similarity between the new TV and radio service and the former Supreme Soviet's Parliamentary Hour. The Democratic Party, the Communists, the Agrarians, and Liberal Democrats, on the other hand, said that the Duma should refuse outright to grant interviews to the Russian TV and Radio Company and deprive it of Duma accreditation.

The LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] group walked out en masse during the morning session. Explaining the reasons for this decision, its leader, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, said:

[Begin Zhirinovskiy recording] For six months now the LDPR, the party, its leader, the group and the deputies, the entire State Duma, and the activities of the supreme legislative body have been subjected to a stream of lies and slander. It is not just a question of [words indistinct] Svanidze. We are not bothered by [word indistinct] as a person. It is the position of Russian television and the mass media. The LPDR group cannot put up with this any longer. These are (?unacceptable) lies. So, we will take a range of steps. [end recording]

[Vishnevskaya] The first of these measures was the boycott of the Duma session. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's move succeeded, it has to be said. In the absence of a quorum the session was broken off at midday.

[Vykhukholev] The meeting of the lower house resumed at 1600. You will hear the details in our next newscast.

Further on LDPR's Duma Boycott

PM2005155494 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 May 94 p 2

[Sergey Chugayev report: "LDPR Faction Launches Boycott of Duma Sessions"]

[Text] The State Duma's morning plenary session 20 May began with a long-expected action: The LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction (60 deputies) walked out of the hall of sessions as a protest against TV journalist N. Svanidze's well-known report on the "Podrobnosti" ["Details"] program.

A similar threat had been delivered at the previous session. But on that occasion the LDPR faction in the event decided to participate in the Duma's work in exchange for the chamber leadership's agreeing to send a letter to the RTR [Russian Television and Radio] leadership, suggesting that N. Svanidze be dismissed.

However, V. Zhirinovskiy, who returned on the eve of the session from a tour of the country, evidently proved to be not satisfied with this decision, and withdrew his faction from the hall anyway. Neither the persuasion of the Communists and the Agrarians, nor even a decision to submit as the first item on the agenda a draft Duma resolution on the creation of the house's own television and radio broadcasting service, was of any avail. At the same time V. Zhirinovskiy announced that his faction is suing V. Svanidze for 560 million rubles. It was also announced that writs are being issued against Ye. Gaydar and IZVESTIYA for the publication of the "Russia's Choice" leader's article on V. Zhirinovskiy. The session also repeatedly heard calls for all Russian television journalists to be deprived of their accreditation. However, these calls did not meet with support.

However, by walking out of the Duma's hall of sessions the LDPR faction did not manage to achieve its main goal—to wreck the quorum. On the contrary, supporters of the formation of yet another parliamentary television company found themselves facing the risk of remaining in the minority, since the "Russia's Choice" and "Yabloko" [Yavlinskiy-Boldyrev-Lukin] factions categorically opposed this idea.

The main part of the debates was devoted to allegations from supporters of parliamentary television of the non-objectivity of media coverage of legislators' activity. In the opinion of representatives of factions—notably the Communist Party—the creation of a Duma television and radio broadcasting company would rectify the situation, since it would give all deputies the opportunity to address voters directly on two state television channels. If the decree is adopted, television viewers could have the opportunity to hear roughly 30 minutes' of speeches from the State Duma deputies every day.

Regional Affairs

Ingushetia President Welcomes Yegorov Appointment

LD2005184694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1756 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Zhilyakov]

[Text] Krasnodar May 20 TASS—"The fact that Nikolay Yegorov was appointed (Russian) minister for ethnic affairs and regional policies, has imbued us, inhabitants of northern Caucasus, with hope," President Ruslan Aushev of Ingushetia told ITAR-TASS in an exclusive interview on Friday. He participated in a conference of leaders of North-Caucasean regions, which took place in Krasnodar.

"As for me, I have never concealed the fact that (the federal government) has no regional policy as yet. I have always criticized the ministry led by Sergey Shakhray," he added.

Describing his attitude toward the newly appointed minister, who previously led the Krasnodar territorial administration, President Aushev said:

"He is a practician, a man, who—to use a military term—commanded the territory inhabited by people of all nationalities represented in Russia. All of them are living in peace. I believe Nikolay Yegorov merits reward for this."

President Aushev expressed hope that Yegorov would make use of the experience he had gained in his economic and political activities.

"We, leaders of North-Caucasian regions, will help him shape regional policies," said the Ingushetian president.

Shooting Continues in N. Ossetian Emergency Zone

LD2105203294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1919 GMT 21 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz May 21 TASS—The situation in parts of north Ossetia under the state of emergency remains tense, according to reports from military sources.

Shooting broke out five times in the Prigorod district last night. On the whole, the situation is under control of the Russian army and local law enforcement bodies.

Head of the temporary administration Vladimir Lozovoy said in his address to the population that "attacks on civilians and police and army check points and hostage taking continue in the zone of the state of emergency. It is outrageous when members of local administrations become organisers of and accomplices in unlawful actions. Heads of bodies of power and power structures who are unable or unwilling to carry out their duties to ensure law and order will be called to account. I call on the citizens of North Ossetia and Ingushetia to resist provocations of extremists who use any means to thwart the settlement of the conflict."

N. Caucasian Leaders Urge Lifting Abkhaz Sanctions

LD2005181494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1712 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Zhilyakov]

[Text] Krasnodar May 20 TASS—Regional heads of North Caucasian republics attending a conference in Baku have appealed to the Russian president, asking him to lift sanctions against Abkhazia.

Participants in the conference believe that lifting economic sanctions will step up the process of the settlement of the conflict in the region. Head of the republics of Adygeya, Dagestan, Ingushetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia, Karachayevo-Cherkessia, the Krasnodar, Stavropol, Rostov regions and South Ossetia took into account that after signing agreements with the participation of the Russian Federation conditions for normal and stable life are being created in the region. A tendency for the restoration of cultural and economic ties has been growing.

This question was not included in the agenda of the conference and was raised in the course of discussions, journalists were told after the conference since they were not admitted.

The conference was attended by Russian Minister for Affairs of Nationalities and Regional Policy, Nikolay Yegorov, who answered journalists' questions.

Participants adopted an address to President Yeltsin in connection with his message to the people of the Northern Caucasus on the occasion of the 130th anniversary since the end of the Caucasian war. The address says that the people of the Northern Caucasus accepted Yeltsin's message with gratitude, believing that by the mercy of fate the Russian president put the last stop to the Caucasian war.

Meeting of Council of N. Caucasian Regions Ends

LD2105133894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1219 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Krasnodar May 21 TASS—The Kalmyk Republic was admitted to the membership of the Social-Economic Cooperation Association of North Caucasian Republics, Territories and Regions at a meeting of this organisation's council which ended here on Friday.

The meeting was attended by the leaders of all the North Caucasian members of the Russian Federation as well as Speaker of the Abkhazian Republic Parliament Vladislav Ardzinba, President of the Crimean Republic Yuriy Meshkov and Speaker of South Ossetian Parliament Lyudvig Chiberov.

The meeting was chaired by Nikolay Yegorov, the Russian Federation's minister on nationalities and regional policy.

The meeting set up a coordination council of the association on struggle against organised crime in the economy and terrorism in the North Caucasus. It also approved a programme for the development of viticulture and winemaking in the region and approved the establishment of a regional business centre in Stavropol.

Later in the day, the leaders of the North Caucasian members of the Russian Federation as well as of the Abkhazian and Crimean republics held a brief meeting which adopted a statement on the 130th anniversary since the end of the Caucasian war.

Chechnya Celebrates 'Caucasian War' Anniversary

LD2105132894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1255 GMT 21 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuev]

[Text] Groznyy (Chechnya) May 21 TASS—The Chechen Republic marked the 130th anniversary since the end of the Caucasian war with a parade of the best units of the emerging Chechen army in its capital city Groznyy on Saturday.

Dzhokhar Dudayev, republican president and commander-in-chief of armed forces, presented banners and standards with Chechen symbols to 12 regular units before the parade.

A conference devoted to the anniversary since the end of the 50-year-long war of tsarist Russia against highlanders, was also held in the Chechen capital on the same day.

Its participants, including guests from Saudi Arabia, the United States and Jordan, noted that the Russian empire conquered Caucasian peoples with fire and sword but could not suppress their will for freedom.

Addressing the conference, Dudayev called for "establishing an international tribunal to condemn the continued colonial policy of Russia in the Caucasus".

Cost of Aviation Depot Blast Reaches R31 Billion

LD2305095694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The material damage caused by the explosions at the Pacific Fleet's aviation depot 14-15 May near the village of Novonezhino has reached approximately 31 billion rubles. This sum does not include losses incurred by the military, stated (Svetlana Parinova), chairwoman of the economy and planning committee of the Maritime kray administration, speaking at a conference in Vladivostok devoted to measures to clear up the aftermath of the blast. Many of the Maritime kray's commercial structures have expressed their willingness to provide those affected with material help, INTERFAX notes.

Archangelsk Oblast Forms Own Government

LD2005140494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Archangelsk Oblast has formed its own government. Pavel Balakshin, head of the oblast administration, appointed Valentin Vlasov, 48, to be its chairman. Up to now, Vlasov has been mayor of Archangelsk. Valentin Vlasov considers the establishment of a government is not merely another change of labels, but an attempt to set up an effective executive body which matches up to contemporary requirements.

Amur Oblast Demarcation Continues

OW2005050194 Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian 0605 GMT 18 May 94

[G. Kukevich video report; from the "Dalniy Vostok" program]

[Text] This event is significant not only for the Amur Oblast residents, but for all of the state. Up till now, there was not a single border marker at the eastern Russian-Chinese border, neither at a land nor a river zone. Today, we are adopting a practice of organizing state borders that is generally accepted in the world. [Video shows interview with A. G. Laskov, chief of demarcation group No. 5]

[Begin Laskov recording] There are two demarcation groups working in our oblast—Nos. 4 and 5. I can also say that the length of the border on the Amur Oblast territory is 1,281 km. The demarcation working groups, which are part of the commission, started field work in early May last year. We were preparing foundations for border markers, and determined their topographic coordinates. Now, the new stage is erecting the border markers. Overall, our group will erect 48 border markers in Amur Oblast, and group No. 4 will erect 50. In other words, 98 border markers are to be erected in 1994-95. The hydrographers group will determine the location of the main fairway. Appropriate documents are being drafted on all of these points, and the end result of our work is a protocol describing the location of the state border line. After this work is concluded, the border with China will be as in the rest of the civilized world. [end recording]

Nizhniy Leaders' Resignation Story 'Crude Forgery'

PM2005101794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 May 94 p 4

[Anatoliy Yershov report: "Nizhniy Novgorod Governor Rumored Dismissed"]

[Text] Nizhniy Novgorod—Over the past few days Nizhniy Novgorod newspaper editorial offices and the radio and television have been sent on official oblast administration notepaper copies of a letter from Governor B. Nemtsov asking the Russian president to relieve both him and Ye. Krestyaninov, the president's representative in Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast, of their duties.

The reason for this resignation is that economic reform in the oblast has allegedly been a disaster, a wave of anti-Semitism is on the rise, and, under these conditions, "people must not be fooled any longer...." Whereas before there were sometimes rumors about Governor B. Nemtsov's possibly transferring to work in Moscow, this time the "resignation question" regarding the two oblast leaders has turned out to be a crude forgery.

IZVESTIYA was told by Ye. Krestyaninov that the appropriate organs will now be investigating just who sent these letters to the mass media.

Rostov-Na-Donu Stops Presses on Moscow Newspapers

MK2005132994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 May 94 p 2

[Anatoliy Borovkov report under the "News From the Regions" rubric: "Fate Crushes Down on Central Newspapers in the Shape of 'Molot'"]

[Text] Rostov-na-Donu—Many subscribers to central newspapers in Rostov Oblast have been left without their favorite periodicals. "Molot," the biggest publishing house in Russia's South, has discontinued printing such newspapers as ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA. Awaiting their turn are GUDOK, SOVETSKIY SPORT, and SPORT-EKSPRESS. The reason is the one that has grown to be banal: The newspapers cannot pay their newsprint and printing debts.

Kazan City Soviet Discusses Budget Deficit

944F0719A Kazan RESPUBLIKA TATARSTAN in Russian 19 May 94 p 1

[Article by V. Nugmanov: "From the City Soviet Session: Budget Deficit and Emergency Budget"]

[Text] Budget deficit and emergency budget—these were undoubtedly the words most frequently heard on the first day of the 18th session of the Kazan City Soviet which opened yesterday. Indeed, the city's economy had a deficit overall of 6.3 billion rubles [R] at the end of 1993, and predictions for the current year show this could grow to R181 billion! City authorities have therefore been forced to adopt emergency financial measures. True, inroads have somehow managed to be made in mending the deficiencies of last year's budget, primarily through diligence on the part of the tax inspectorate and efforts by the city administration and a number of enterprises. But now, how do we "leap over the financial abyss" of the current year?

V. Titov, director of the city's Finance Administration, cited a number of emergency measures in his presentation during the session aimed at extricating the city from its crisis: replenishment of the working capital of city enterprises, the introduction of promissory notes in clearing-account transactions, and even state regulation of prices and wages, etc.

In her supplementary report, T. Antropova, chairman of the Planning and Budget Commission of the city soviet, also attempted to locate nontraditional sources of revenue, not overlooking the prospect of conducting lotteries and auctions, or even of collecting revenue from the Kazan Racetrack.

Deputies taking part in the debates also proposed their solutions for fortifying the "financial health" of the city. Thus, G. Naumov called for the establishment of a municipal bank with all its appropriate infrastructure, following the example of a number of Russian cities. D. Galyautdinov focused attention on "hot" facilities that "fell out" of the 1994 budget. In particular, in his view there is no way Kazan can do without a new trolleybus depot and a number of new automated telephone exchanges.

Adoption of an emergency budget will assist in resolving a number of burning issues. Following the allocation of R6.4 billion to meet the city's electric transport needs, the acquisition and replacement of 48 streetcars and 55 trolleybuses and the modernization of water and sewage networks become entirely real prospects.

G. Kobelev, chairman of the Budget and Planning Commission of the Tatarstan Republic Supreme Soviet, then took the floor. Along with the stunning information that the total nonpayments amount throughout the republic had reached the astronomical figure of R1 trillion, he provided favorable information concerning the expected gradual lowering of the interest rate on bank credits by the end of the year to 190-100 percent, the planned adoption of a number of new Tatarstan Republic laws, and an anticrisis program.

International Affairs

Yeltsin, Kravchuk Discuss Crimea Over Telephone

LD1905132294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1304 GMT 19 May 94

[Report by UKRINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Kiev 19 May TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Russian President Boris Yeltsin had a telephone conversation on Thursday [19 May].

The Ukrainian president's press service reported that the presidents had a frank exchange of opinions on speeding up the implementation of the Ukrainian-Russian arrangements reached at the Moscow meeting on April 15.

They agreed that the problems should be discussed in the next few days at the level of heads of governments for the subsequent signing of the documents by the Ukrainian and Russian presidents.

Kravchuk and Yeltsin also touched upon the situation in the Crimea. Kravchuk spelled out his position on settling the Crimean problem in the framework of the constitutional regime.

He stressed that Ukraine would take appropriate measures to preserve territorial integrity of the state.

Senior Aide Attacks Yeltsin Warning To Kravchuk

LD2105193194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1737 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] A senior source in the Ukrainian president's staff has criticized Russian President Boris Yeltsin's comments on a telephone conversation he had on Friday with his Ukrainian counterpart, Leonid Kravchuk.

The comments, made in a television interview, "do not reflect the real content of the conversation," the source told INTERFAX-Ukraine.

He said Yeltsin's words that "the main thing is that neither Ukraine nor Russia should interfere in Crimean affairs" were "surprising." They suggested that Russia, in its relationship with Crimea, would like to have the same status as Ukraine, of which Crimea is part.

As for Yeltsin's statement that Ukraine must not use force against Crimea, the source said, "Ukraine is an independent state, and the methods it uses to solve its internal problems depend solely on the will of its people and parliament. Undoubtedly those methods would meet the Constitution and laws of Ukraine. Ukraine has observed and does observe international legal standards."

"What was also surprising was the rhetoric of the Russian president, who was speaking about the Ukrainian president in a disrespectful and admonishing manner," the source continued.

"The statement of the president of the Russian Federation would be much more constructive if he appealed to the separatists in the Republic of Crimea not to put in jeopardy peace in the region," the source summed up.

Government Delegation To Go to Moscow To Discuss Crimea

LD2105192394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1737 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko said he and his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev realized that the actions of the leadership of the Ukrainian autonomous republic of Crimea did not meet the interests of either Russia or Ukraine.

"We have agreed to hold joint consultations in case of any unforeseen developments," Zlenko told reporters on Saturday [21 May] commenting on a telephone conversation he had had with Kozyrev the same day.

Zlenko said the conversation had made it clear that "Russia will refrain from any interference in the current situation in Crimea." He expressed the hope that Ukraine and Russia "will manage to set in motion a negotiation mechanism that would help find a solution to the problem." Ukraine will not use force in Crimea "unless the other side provokes it," he said.

Some sources told INTERFAX-Ukraine that, following the last telephone conversation between the Ukrainian and Russian presidents, a Ukrainian government delegation, led by acting Prime Minister Yefim Zvyagilskiy, was leaving for Moscow on Monday to discuss the division of the disputed Black Sea Fleet, a friendship and cooperation treaty between the two countries and the Crimean problem.

On Friday, Zlenko said in a letter to Kozyrev that the Crimean legislature's decision to restore the Crimean Constitution approved on 6 May 1992, jeopardized political stability in Ukraine and might cause tension between Ukraine and Russia. He said that, in case of further trouble in Crimea, Ukraine might take all measures allowed by its constitution and legislation to preserve its territorial integrity.

Kozyrev, in a reply to Zlenko, said the possibility of Russian-Ukrainian tension over Crimea was bound to cause concern. But it is important "to respect the sovereign will of peoples, show restraint and rule out the use of force. All problems arising between Ukraine and the sovereign Republic of Crimea—forming part of Ukraine—must be settled solely by political means," the Russian minister said.

"The situation in Crimea once again proves the need to solve the problems of the Black Sea Fleet as soon as possible, on the basis of the agreements between the presidents of the two countries. Russia is ready for this," Kozyrev said

Russian, Ukrainian Premiers To Hold Talks on Crimea 23 May

LD2205104794 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Negotiations between the prime ministers of Ukraine and Russia on settling the situation in Crimea will take place next Monday [23 May].

In his letter to the head of the Russian foreign political department [Foreign Ministry], Ukraine's Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko declared that Kiev would take all measures within the framework of the Constitution of Ukraine to ensure the country's territorial integrity.

Fleet Exercises End; 50,000 Troops Said in Crimea

LD2305081394 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0730 GMT 23 May 94

[Excerpts] The largest Black Sea Fleet exercises for some time have ended in the Crimea. Approximately 30 ships, coastal units, and aviation took part. Subunits and ships are now in their usual places of deployment and there are no troop movements. The maneuvers demonstrated the fleet's high degree of combat readiness. [passage omitted]

On the whole the situation remains calm throughout the peninsula, but according to the latest figures there are now approximately 50,000 Ukrainian soldiers in Crimea, and their number continues to increase. Mainly they are special purpose units.

Unidentified Gunmen Reportedly Attack Air Defense Site

LD2105152494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1442 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] The Ukrainian Defence Ministry issued a statement Friday [20 May] night saying that "a group of unidentified gunmen had tried to seize a strategic facility of the Ukrainian Anti-Aircraft Defence Force in Sevastopol."

It notes that "properly organized defence of the facility and resolute actions by Ukrainian servicemen became obstacles to criminals."

A well-informed source in the Ukrainian Defence Ministry has reported to Interfax that ten gunmen attempted to capture the Ukrainian Anti-aircraft Defence Command Post in Sevastopol on 19 May. The Ukrainian guards on duty at the facility frustrated their attempt.

The statement stresses that the Crimean parliament's decision on army service for Crimeans exclusively in the peninsula "makes the Ukrainian side weary." "Not only does the document is at variance with Ukraine's constitution and defence potential requirements but it builds up tension in society and in the Army," the statement says.

It underlines that the "Ukrainian Army units deployed in the Crimea are subordinate to Ukraine's Defence Ministry and carry out orders from the Ukrainian Supreme Army Commander in the interests of ensuring the territorial integrity of our state, its defence potential and inviolable frontiers."

Speaking in parliament in Simferopol Saturday morning, the Crimean Security Service Chairman Vladimir Lepekhov denied that the Ukrainian anti-aircraft command post had come under attack Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, as Interfax has found out from a source close to Crimean parliament, Ukrainian guards and special troops are being massed in the peninsula. Some 250 national guards arrived in Sevastopol Friday night and have set up a camp on the grounds of the Ukrainian naval academy in the city.

Up to 400 more Ukrainian guards are expected in Sevastopol shortly.

Black Sea Fleet Said Reinforcing Marine Infantry

LD2105131394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1130 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Sevastopol, [No dateline as received]—On 21 May a UNIAN correspondent learned from reliable sources that in the afternoon the Black Sea Fleet forces are planning to redeploy 51 armored personnel carriers [APC's] from somewhere near Yevpatoriya to the vicinity of Sevastopol. These APC's from the composition of the coastal units will reinforce the Black Sea Fleet Marine Infantry. Relevant headquarters of a reinforced tank battalion and an antiaircraft missile battalion have already been formed.

Navy Protests Transfer of Troops to Sevastopol

LD2105163794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1535 GMT 21 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev 21 May TASS— The Ukrainian Navy press centre protested on Saturday plans to transfer to Sevastopol "a reinforced tank battalion and an anti-aircraft anti-missile battalion of the coastal defence formation of the Black Sea Fleet in the near future."

A statement released by the press centre earlier today said that the battalions will be included in the black Sea Fleet marine brigade.

It also said that part of their officers have already moved to Sevastopol for permanent residence. The statement stressed that without notification and consultation the

Black Sea Fleet commanders adopt a decision to bring in strike forces in Sevastopol. The press centre voiced concern about the fact that the Black Sea Fleet, which is under direct control of the presidents of Russia and Ukraine, has made it its practice to conduct exercises, move troops and send large numbers of ships to sea without notification of the Ukrainian Side.

The press centre expressed "strong protest against the unilateral actions of the Black Sea Fleet commanders which hamper the stabilisation of the situation in Sevastopol and the Crimean region, and hinder the development of normal and genuinely friendly relations between Ukraine and Russia."

The Ukrainian Navy "confirms its readiness to solve the existing problems in a civilised way and hopes for the prudence of the Black Sea Fleet commanders, as well as all those on whom peace and calm on our land depends," the statement said.

Nation Willing To Transfer Bombers to Russia for High Price

AU2005103194 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 19 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "To New Airfields?"]

[Text] Ukraine expressed its readiness to transfer to Russia nationalized strategic bombers—but for a lot of money. The Defense Ministry of the Russian Federation believes that our state presently has 42 heavy bombers at its disposal, while the Russian Air Force has 77 such machines. The Russian Army finds it difficult to deploy new aircraft because the financing of their serial production has been halted. As a result, in accordance with the plans by the Russian Federation's Ministry of Defense, the Air Force will remain without changes until the year 2000. "If Ukraine does not agree to our terms, the aircraft will remain on its territory," stated a representative of the Russian Federation's Ministry of Defense. This was reported by the information agency ITAR-TASS.

Agreement Signed With Moscow on Standardization Cooperation

LD2105181094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Kiev, 20 May—An agreement between the Governments of Ukraine and Russia has been signed on cooperation in the sphere of standardization, metrology, and certification. This document aims to remove technical barriers in economic and trade relations between the states.

Kravchuk, U.S. Financier Discuss Further Aid

LD2005183194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Today, Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk received George Soros, a well-known financier, [word indistinct] and U.S. public figure. There was a conversation, a significant part of which was held in the absence of press representatives. Various aspects of further aid to Ukraine on the part of the Soros Foundation were discussed during the conversation.

Leonid Kravchuk emphasized that in our state they highly assess the humanistic activity of this foundation and are grateful for the aid that is so necessary today for the Ukrainian state.

After the conversation George Soros granted an interview to journalists in which he, in particular, emphasized that during his meeting with the president, apart from stating positive factors of cooperation with our state, they also discussed an issue on exempting from taxation separate kinds of aid extended by the Soros Foundation to Ukraine. This will significantly expand the possibilities of its activities in Ukraine.

Rukh Urges Leaders To Halt Withdrawal of Nuclear Weapons

LD2105092194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The People's Movement of Ukraine [Rukh] has issued an appeal calling on the Ukrainian president and Supreme Council to take effective measures for the Constitution and laws of Ukraine to be implemented in Crimea and the territorial integrity of the Ukrainian state to be ensured. Under the conditions of Russia's continuing informational, organizational, and parliamentary aggression in Crimea, the People's Movement deems it necessary to halt the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from the territory of Ukraine, the document stresses.

Rukh also appeals to the UN Security Council and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and requests them to prevent Ukraine from being taken to pieces and being plunged into a civil war.

National Affairs

Kravchuk To Address Parliament on Crimean Constitution

LD2005151694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] [Announcer Igor Vykhukholev] INTERFAX has learned that a conference devoted to the political situation in the Crimea began in the Kiev office of President Leonid Kravchuk at about 1500 hours Moscow time [1100 GMT]. The Ukrainian parliament is expected to debate the same question at its evening session. The session will be addressed by Leonid Kravchuk. It is likely to be closed to the press. According to reports from informed sources, the Ukrainian president has already sent the Supreme Soviet a draft decision in which the

Ukrainian parliament will rescind the Crimean Supreme Soviet's decision to restore the Crimean Constitution of 6 May 1992.

To Request Powers in Crimean Constitution Crisis

LD2105165994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Leonid Kravchuk, president of Ukraine, intends to ask the parliament for the relevant powers if the supreme soviet of Crimea does not revoke the decision to restore the 1992 constitution, Nykola Mykhalchenko, head of the presidential service on questions of internal policy reported. He did not reply to the question as to whether these powers meant the introduction of direct presidential rule or of a state of emergency in Crimea.

Kravchuk: No Changes in Crimean Status, Ukraine's Integrity

WS2305111694 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 23 May 94

[Excerpts] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk paid a working visit to the town of Pervomaysk, Mykolayiv Oblast. Our correspondent Vitaliy Naumenko reports:

[Begin recording] [Naumenko] Given the heavy load of problems now facing the Ukrainian people which call for the soonest possible resolution, the Ukrainian president received quite a few questions.

[Unidentified correspondent from Ukrayinske Radio] I would not like to talk about other issues on this festive day, but obviously, the Crimean issue is on everybody's mind today. How would you comment on the further course of developments?

[Kravchuk] Once the Crimean Supreme Soviet rescinds the law that it passed, the Ukrainian Supreme Council's resolution will also be revoked. In other words, everything depends on the Crimean Supreme Soviet. If it suspends its law, the corresponding resolution by the Ukrainian Supreme Council will also be suspended. I hope that the delegation named by the Crimean Supreme Soviet will arrive in Kiev soon, and that we will find some solution to the issue. But this solution can only have one outcome: No changes as far as [Crimea's] status or Ukrainian territorial integrity are concerned—and in the framework of this process, as they say, is the process of finding mutual understanding, without changing status or territorial integrity. If this is accepted as the basis, we will find solutions. However, integrity and statehood are the limit, beyond which there is no turning back. No one is allowed to cross it. Nor will the Crimea be allowed to cross it.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you not think that the Crimean parliament has gone too far in its claims regarding Ukraine's territorial integrity?

[Kravchuk] I think they will end where they began. Because this will be a mandatory legal action by Ukraine—and supported not only by Ukraine. I have information that an address by the Ukrainian foreign minister to world countries, providing an explanation of our position.... This position has met with comprehensive support for the territorial integrity and inviolability of Ukrainian borders. The whole world recognized Ukraine, and it also recognizes our legal position. Incidentally, this was confirmed by Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev, who said that Russia cannot, and will not, bring up the issue of territorial integrity. It stands to reason that it cannot do so because this is recognized by the whole world. This was contained in the agreement between Russia and Ukraine in 1990 and in the trilateral agreement signed by the presidents of Ukraine, the United States, and Russia in Moscow. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent, in Russian] What is your stance on the presidential elections?

[Kravchuk, in Russian] It remains the same. While talking with the Mykolayiv Oblast leadership today, I convinced myself once again that one has to resolve today issues facing Ukraine and its people. Both the political and economic situation are complicated. Most important is that before holding elections, one needs to lay the legal groundwork for power, which should be constitutional, law-governed, and well grounded. And only then should elections be held—so that there will be no situation of the legalities being established after the elections. By the way, the Crimea is a shining example proving this point. It was granted autonomy in 1990, and we adopted the power-sharing law two years later. As a result, the legal vacuum was being filled in the meantime, leading to the buildup of legal, political, and other problems. They can only be resolved when we move back to the starting point. We should seek to prevent a similar situation in this election, when you elect and then decide. It is always more difficult. This is why one needs to decide everything, dot all i's, and then conduct elections. [end recording]

Kravchuk: Crimean Solution Must Not Alter Status

LD2305152094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1436 GMT 23 May 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk hoped that the Ukrainian and Crimean parliamentary delegations which would meet on Tuesday [24 May], would find a solution to the Crimean issue.

However, the only possible way is not to alter the status of Crimea or the territorial integrity of Ukraine, Kravchuk told journalists on Sunday when he was present at a Cossack celebration in the city of Pervomaisk in the Nikolayevsk Region.

Kravchuk emphasized that territorial integrity was the borderline which must not be violated. This holds for Crimea as well, Kravchuk stressed.

He also said that the crisis could be solved as soon as the Crimean parliament cancels its decision to reinstate the 1992 constitution which introduces dual citizenship and relations with Kiev based on agreements.

Kravchuk Adviser Interviewed on Situation in Crimea

LD2205090894

[Editorial Report] Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian at 1925 GMT on 21 May carries a 37-minute live interview with Mykola Mykhalchenko, domestic policy adviser to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, by Mykola Marynenko. Reception is fair to unmonitorable.

Marynenko begins by commenting on the seriousness of the situation in the Crimea and on misinformation in the mass media. He asks Mykhalchenko to give his opinion on the situation. Mykhalchenko replies:

Mykhalchenko replies: "I would like to say first that the situation in the Crimea right now is, unfortunately, very, very dangerous. One of the sides in the Crimea—that is, the extremist forces of the Russian community—has in fact reached an abyss. Thus, it is now evident that there could be a civil war, and the latest events plainly show this."

Mykhalchenko says he has been in the Crimea recently and noticed that the Crimean Tatars were ready to act very resolutely if the policy of separating Crimea from Ukraine and joining it to Russia did not stop, fearing another deportation of the Crimean Tatars, this time forever. He notes that pro-Russian separatist forces in Crimea are being destructive while Russia is calling for mutual understanding.

Marynenko asks Mykhalchenko about the closed Ukrainian parliament session on 20 May. Mykhalchenko replies: "The Ukrainian president gave objective information to the deputies of the newly elected Supreme Council about the situation in the Crimea, showing them our possibilities for keeping the situation under control. He said—this is not word for word but the general sense of it—that Ukraine has reached the final stroke, that one cannot retreat now, and that the president is prepared to act vigorously and firmly, and so on. He proposed a whole set of actions for keeping the Crimea as part of Ukraine and for not allowing [word indistinct] a civil war there. Unfortunately, I repeat unfortunately, our parliament again adopted a half-way decision only to suspend all of these documents, which facilitate the operation of the documents adopted by Crimea's parliament: One should revoke unconditionally and so on."

Mykhalchenko adds that a considerable number of the deputies in the Ukrainian Supreme Council acted against Ukrainian interests and that they said in parliament that events in Crimea should be allowed to take their course. He dwells on the fact that the Crimean Tatars did not take part in voting on the decision in the Crimean Supreme Council, that they do not support the separation of the Crimea from Ukraine, and that their position is important.

Marynenko asks Mykhalchenko what President Kravchuk can do if the Ukrainian Supreme Council does not agree to his proposals. Mykhalchenko replies: "The Supreme Council is the highest legislative authority in Ukraine, but Ukraine's president is the guarantor of statehood. Ukraine's president is the guarantor of the Constitution, whatever kind of constitution it is, and the president should defend the current Constitution. I think the president will act vigorously and do everything possible to preserve Ukraine's statehood, so that territorial issues are resolved only in accordance with the Constitution." He adds that the people of Ukraine will be the judges of the Ukrainian Supreme Council.

Marynenko brings up the fact that Russia and Crimea concluded an agreement without going through Kiev, to which Mykhalchenko replies that Ukraine informed the United Nations and other international organizations that Crimea does not have the right to sign international or political agreements on its own or even to hold talks on these issues. He dwells on Russia's history of dictatorship and says that Russia trains other states to view its policy towards its neighbors as policy not based on international law, but on force.

Marynenko questions Mykhalchenko about the recent telephone conversation betwen Presidents Kravchuk and Yeltsin. Mykhalchenko replies: "The point is that in this conversation, as far as I know, Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk raised the issue of mutual relations between Ukraine and Russia, saying that the signing of a broad political treaty between Ukraine and Russia should be accelerated as should the dividing up of the Black Sea Fleet. The events in the Crimea were undoubtedly touched on. Leonid Makarovych posited that the situation really is entering a dead end now, that the president of Ukraine cannot expect something because there is nothing to expect, and so on, and that he will act firmly according to these circumstances. Undoubtedly Yeltsin did not agree with this position, but the president of Ukraine made no promises that he will not act purposefully or vigorously. Leonid Makarovych said that he would act within the framework of Ukraine's Constitution, which gives the president many possibilities for various courses of action. That is, Leonid Makarovych did not promise to be passive. He made a promise to act within the bounds of Ukraine's Constitution. This is his right."

Marynenko mentions that Yeltsin said that the Crimea is a sovereign autonomous republic. Mykhalchenko mentions the difference in Russia's policy toward Crimea as an autonomous republic within Ukraine and its policy toward autonomous republics within the Russian Federation, and says that the Crimea cannot be both sovereign and autonomous. He says that when he was in the United States recently none of the officials he spoke to there had any doubt that the Crimea was autonomous within Ukraine or that it was essentially a regional authority.

Asked about the treaty between Ukraine and Russia, Mykhalchenko replies that President Yeltsin said he would not sign an agreement until the Black Sea Fleet issue was resolved. Mykhalchenko doubts that Russia will resolve the Black Sea Fleet issue or that it would agree to the signing of a treaty. He says that the Black Sea Fleet is used to intimidate Ukraine. According to Mykhalchenko, although Crimean Vice Premier Yevgeniy Saburov has Ukrainian citizenship, other members of the Crimean Government do not, even though this is against Ukrainian law. The interview ends with Mykhalchenko saying that Ukraine sometimes reacts belatedly to the actions of Crimea's extremists, mentioning the possibility of civil war, and stressing that the Crimean Tatars will not allow another deportation.

Crimean Official: Kravchuk Needs Crisis To Stop Election

LD2205175394 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 22 May 94

[Excerpts] Passions have been running high lately in the Crimea, but today the situation is somewhat less tense. Very probably this is because talks are going to take place tomorrow between the government delegations of Russia and Ukraine concerning the situation on the peninsula. It will be recalled that Kiev's delegation will be led by Yuhym Zvyahilskyy, the acting prime minister. What results does Simferopol expect of this meeting? Our correspondent is talking to Vyacheslav Lebedev, the press secretary of the Crimean president.

[Begin Lebedev recording] The negotiating process has begun, and both Russia and Ukraine realize there is a need for talks, so the results are bound to come—not at once, perhaps, but there will be results. The very fact talks are taking place will have a positive influence on developments in the Crimea. As for the situation in the Crimea, the president is in control—that is, of the things he can control. He cannot, for example, control the fleet, and the troops are also being controlled by someone different. [end recording]

If the representatives of Russia and Ukraine discuss the situation in the Crimea tomorrow, then talks between the parliamentary delegations of Simferopol and Kiev will take place on 24 May. [passage omitted] And what is the current situation like? Once more, here is the press secretary of the Crimean president:

[Begin Lebedev recording] The situation is normal and quiet. The tension exists only on the top level and is largely internal. We realize the presidential election in Ukraine is scheduled for 26 June and Kravchuk is making his last attempts to play the Crimean card and disrupt the election or put some sort of pressure on the deputies. We shall try to defend ourselves and not give him a pretext to introduce a state of emergency and thus avoid the election. It is by this that the present situation has been caused and these difficulties are mainly temporary. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Politicians Blame Kravchuk for Crimea Situation

LD2305050794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0408 GMT 23 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 23 May (TASS)—Some politicians in Ukraine have been blaming President Leonid Kravchuk for the situation, which has taken shape in the Crimea. Sergey Golovaty, for one, said during his appearance on national television on Sunday that "the president of Ukraine has shown indecision with regard to the leadership of the autonomous republic. We are now in a state where Leonid Kravchuk is no longer able to do anything because he is three years late. Any actions of his can now exacerbate the situation even more."

Sergey Golovaty said the only way out of the situation consists in "bringing all the latest decrees and resolutions of the parliament and the president of the Crimea in line with Ukraine's legislation."

Former vice-premier, Igor Yukhnovsky, stressed that "Ukraine cannot do without the Crimea and will do everything possible to preserve its territorial integrity." Some other parliament members called for direct presidential rule in the Crimea.

Saburov Blames Crimean Crisis on Kravchuk Not Ukraine

LD2005160794 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Thirty minutes ago we made contact with Yevgeniy Saburov, the Crimean head of government, to get his views on what is going on in Simferopol.

[Begin Saburov recording] The reaction by Kravchuk was completely uncalled for. When you ask for the law to be observed, you cannot then introduce a state of emergency. That is true, unless you have some ulterior motives, so to speak. As for ulterior motives, I do not know who thinks they are ulterior. They are all out in the open, completely open to view.

Here we are talking about the Ukrainian presidential election. Everything that is happening in Crimea is linked to this issue alone. It is the only way for Leonid Makarevich Kravchuk to call off the presidential election. Therefore, strictly speaking, it will be completely inaccurate to talk about Ukraine here. Here we should be talking about a number of characters in the Kiev leadership who are prepared to risk a lot in pursuit of their own goals.

So, how far are they prepared to go? This, incidentally, is a matter for their consciences. [end recording]

Christian Democrats Urge Kravchuk To 'Defend Law' in Crimea

WS2005130894 Kiev VECHIRNIY KIYEV in Ukrainian 19 May 94 p 1

["Statement" of the Christian Democratic Party of Ukraine on the situation in the Republic of Crimea]

[Text] As has become known, Crimean Republic's President Meshkov is planning to hold a conference of leaders of the autonomy on 20 May 1994, whose agenda includes: the introduction of separate Crimean citizenship and dual citizenship; the organization of Crimea's Armed Forces; the removal of Ukraine's Armed Forces from the peninsula; and joining CIS by the Crimea as an independent state.

Russia's high statesmen and politicians are taking a lively part in anti-Ukrainian activities. Special landing units of Russia's Armed Forces are being transferred to the Crimea. Crimea's population, as well as all the Ukrainian people are on the eve of a tragedy.

This threat ensued as a consequence of the capitulative, indecisive, and incompetent policies of Ukrainian President Kravchuk who demonstrated his inability to carry out his oath—which he swore on the Holy Scripture when assuming his high post—to protect state sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Ukraine. The irresponsibility of Ukraine's highest statesman in this fateful moment is striking—instead of safeguarding national interests, peace, and stability in the Crimea, Mr. Kravchuk pays a visit to Donbass in his search for support for canceling presidential and local legislative elections.

Today, history gives Mr. Kravchuk the last chance to restore people's trust in him: He must defend the law in the Crimea, prevent Ukraine's citizens from terrible consequences of political adventurism of Crimean Zhirinovskiy's, and stop the escalation of the anti-Ukrainian campaign which will inevitably lead to bloodshed, violence, and a breakdown of the state.

[Signed] The Central Council of the Christian Democratic Party of Ukraine

Saburov More Interested in Sewerage System Than Crisis

LD2005182594

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1625 GMT on 20 May broadcast the regular "Details" program presented by Sergey Dorenko, which was devoted to a nine-minute video report by correspondent Vladislav Flyarkovskiy. Before introducing this report, Dorenko briefly commented on the Crimean crisis, saying:

"The Crimean Supreme Soviet today restored the peninsula's Constitution, a highly autonomous Constitution, and everyone was expecting a response from Kiev and possible clashes. But the day passed off without clashes. We spoke to Crimean Prime Minister Yevgeniy Saburov over the telephone and he, in contrast to us, said that he was more interested in the problem of Crimea's sewerage system, and that he did not share our fears today."

Saburov Says Situation Stable; Tourists Welcome

LD2005190294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The Ukrainian Supreme Council set up a working commission this evening for conducting talks with Crimea. It has been revealed that Simferopol's delegation at these talks will be headed by Sergey Tsekov, head of the Crimean Supreme Soviet. Yevgeniy Saburov, the head of government of the Republic of Crimea, expressed a hope in an interview with our radio station that the talks will be successful, the conflict resolved, and the situation in the Crimea will remain quiet.

[Begin Saburov recording] We continue to work in a calm manner. Crimea does not respond—tries not to respond—to provocations. Crimea is living its normal peaceful life. The Crimean Government is at the moment working on a report about the socioeconomic situation in the Republic, which is very poor. The Kiev leaders are disseminating false reports that the situation in Crimea is unstable and unquiet and because of this people are not coming here very much. I would like to tell you that the situation in Crimea is absolutely stable and quiet. No one is really interested in these bickerings between authorities. The weather here is marvelous and we look forward to seeing you all! [end recording]

Crimea's Meshkov, Saburov Interviewed on Situation

LD2205192594 Moscow NTV in Russian 1700 GMT 22 May 94

[Video report by correspondent Nikolay Filippov, including recorded comment by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov and Crimean Deputy Prime Minister Yevgeniy Saburov]

[Excerpts] [Filippov] It is said that history repeats itself twice. Today, just as two years ago in May 1992 [when the Crimean parliament adopted its own constitution], all attention is fixed on the Crimea. [passage omitted]

[Meshkov, interviewed in a study] There are politicians who are called hawks, but who should probably more accurately be called concussed. Among such politicians are several ministers who wear military uniforms and who are not now hiding their intentions to begin military actions immediately. Under pressure from them and evidently with their blessing, the military contingent in the Crimea has been increased 10-fold, contrary to current legislation that encompasses Crimean legislation as well. In violation of their own legislation the Crimea is being flooded with military formations.

[Saburov] There is no talk of changing borders. It is rubbish to say that the Constitution talks of a separation. It is written there: The Crimea is within the composition of Ukraine. Then it is said that we are rushing things. This Constitution was adopted on 6 May 1992. Kiev asked us to wait. How long can we wait? [passage omitted]

[Saburov] When the first deputy internal affairs minister attacks the Crimean Internal Affairs Ministry at 2.30 a.m....it is just laughable. It is simply not decent. They are not giving the credits promised and agreed for agriculture because you are somehow not behaving yourselves quite right there.

[Filippov] So, the situation is repeating itself. Once again there is a Crimean Constitution, and once again there is a Ukrainian ultimatum. Again troops are being sent in and the situation on the Black Sea fleet—the fate of which, just like the Crimea's, has not been decided by the two presidents—is heating up.

[Meshkov] I had no intention of worsening relations with the Kiev administration. I do not want to worsen our relations in the period before the Ukrainian presidential elections, or by worsening relations give those forces that are already obliged to leave the political scene the opportunity to preserve their power.

Meshkov Asks Russia To Prevent Kiev Imposing Direct Rule

LD2005212094 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1600 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] Yuriy Meshkov, president of the Republic of Crimea, has called upon Russia to prevent Ukraine introducing direct presidential rule in Crimea. Speaking at a session of the local parliament, he pointed out that Ukraine is intensifying pressure on Crimea and is striving to provoke yet another conflict.

Meshkov Calls for Implementation 3-Party Agreement

LD2105201294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1702 GMT 21 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Dzyublo]

[Text] Moscow 21 May TASS—Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov called for guarantees of the implementation of the three-party agreement on the Crimea signed by Russia, Ukraine and the United States.

Speaking on Russian television on Saturday [21 May], Meshkov said that "we recognise our responsibility both to the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia" for possible consequences that the current developments may entail. He stressed that the Crimea's "willingness to work things out" must be "supported and guaranteed by all sides."

He described as "understandable" the situation when "the most acute problem of the Black Sea Fleet" based in the peninsula "is being solved without the participation of the Republic of Crimea." Meshkov emphasised that the problem "affects residents of the Republic of Crimea" and their interests.

He confirmed his intention "to solve all disputes on the basis of mutually beneficial and mutually acceptable terms." Meshkov said that at first the Crimea and Ukraine must sign an agreement in order to stabilise the situation and create conditions for signing an agreement between Russia and Ukraine.

He stressed that this must be done in exactly this order, not vice versa. The president warned that the opposite may put the Crimea outside the settlement process and have a negative impact on the talks.

Crimean Parliament Bars Sending Conscripts to Other Regions

WS2005151494 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Having restored the Crimean Constitution to its previous version, the Crimean Supreme Council session is continuing to surprise everyone with its highly productive work. Only two hours after adopting the law on restoring the constitutional foundations of statehood on the peninsula, it adopted a resolution on compulsory military service for Crimean citizens. According to this document, sending Crimean conscripts to serve in other regions of Ukraine is halted simultaneously with the adoption of the resolution. They will be sent outside the Crimea only with their consent. The Supreme Council charged military commissars of the Crimean Republic and Sevastopol with ensuring implementation of this resolution.

Explaining the adoption of this resolution, the deputies were referring to the bullying of conscripts [words indistinct], as well as an anti-Crimean syndrome apparently widespread in the Ukrainian Armed Forces, predominantly in western oblasts. At the same time, Crimean Military Commissar Oleksandr Volkov, assured that, according to agreements reached with the autonomous republic, conscripts have not been sent to these oblasts for a year and a half. He also noted that the implementation of this resolution is unrealistic due to the lack of efficient material utilization and education in the Crimea.

Civil Congress Supports Crimea's Sovereignty

LD2005163594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1410 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Odessa, 20 May—"The aggressive aspirations of the imperial-military Kiev, which is striving to trample down Crimea's sovereignty, deserve resolute condemnation. Yuriy Meshkov will not be right if he yields to blackmail and agrees to compromises," this is how Lev Vershynin, the cochairman of the Civil Congress of Ukraine, commented on the latest developments in Crimea in an interview with a UNIAR correspondent. He said that the Odessa branch of the Civil Congress will issue a relevant statement in connection with the latest events in Crimea.

Odessa Military Denies Reports of Troops Movement in Crimea

LD2005151294 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1410 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Odessa, 20 May—Colonel Vyacheslav Voronkov, press secretary of the Odessa military district commander, refuted reports by the "Ostankino" TV company about Ukrainian troops movements, which took place in Crimea. He said information about the movement of Ukrainian tanks in the vicinity of the village of Tylovoye, about the deployment of a field hospital in the village of Chernobayevka, and about the movement of the special purpose troops do not correspond to reality. The 32d Army Corps also remains in its deployment site. A routine inspection is being carried out in the Odessa military district units. A similar inspection will get under way in Crimea on 23 May.

Official Warns Ukraine Against Troop Deployment in Crimea

LD2005153194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1422 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: By correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] "The Ukrainian leadership's decision to deploy a group of national guards and specially trained troops in the Crimea is fraught with serious consequences primarily for Ukraine itself. It cannot fail to give rise to concern in Moscow," a senior member of Russia's Foreign Ministry in charge of Russian-Ukrainian relations told INTERFAX on Friday [20 May].

According to him, "now the danger of displaying extremism by both Kiev and Simferopol, with all the ensuing consequences, is greater than ever before."

"We do not back the Crimean radicals, of course. Nevertheless Ukraine, which is, speaking figuratively, in another weight division, should behave as it befits a big power," the diplomat said.

So far the Crimean people have acted in the framework of democratic procedures, without violating Ukrainian legislation, he noted. "As regard Kiev, it is not quite clear how it interprets democracy and contemporary international law. To despatch troops is not a good way out of the situation," said INTERFAX's interviewee.

According to him, "if events in the Crimea develop in the same vein, this might grow into a long-term conflict." "The experience of the former Yugoslavia shows that playing with fire ends in a big blaze," he said.

According to INTERFAX's interviewee, actions taken by the Ukrainian leadership can largely be attributed to the current political situation. "The striving of some Ukrainian politicians to score additional points on the eve of presidential elections can be understood, but when it grows into troop movements, it can hardly be viewed as normal," he said.

Ukraine "can hardly find anything wrong in Russia's behavior," the diplomat pointed out. "It's characteristic that neither Russia's president and government nor parliament have made any official statements or taken sharp steps so far," he said.

Nevertheless, Kiev "has not abandoned its attempts to find a foe from without," said INTERFAX's interviewee.

On Wednesday the press service of Ukraine's President released a statement to the effect that "dangerous processes in the Crimea are stimulated by some Russian politicians, whose actions acquired the signs of open interference in Ukraine's internal affairs of late." "We do not even want to comment on such statements; let them remain on Ukraine's conscience," the Russian diplomat said.

According to him, Kiev's argument is that it must take the necessary steps to maintain Ukraine's territorial integrity. "An attempt to shift the issue of territorial integrity to another plain is in evidence. Russia has declared more than once that it lays no claims on the Crimea, viewing it as an integral part of Ukraine, to which it has no territorial claims. Nevertheless some Ukrainian politicians persist in speculating on the "Russian factor," the diplomat said.

Foreign Ministry on World Support for Ukraine Over Crimea

LD2005180794 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The press center of our state's Foreign Affairs Ministry reported today the deep concern of the world community in connection with the Crimean events, directed at changing the legal status of the autonomous republic as a constituent part of Ukraine. Their disquietude is also evoked by tendencies, which lead to tension in interethnic relations on the peninsula and threaten peace and calm in the region. The report by the press center of Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry notes that the European and world community, in the person of official factors and the mass media, is expressing its support for the principles of Ukraine's territorial integrity and the inviolability of its borders. They are also calling on political forces, which are destabilizing the situation in this region, to a balanced approach and the understanding of their responsibility to mankind.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Crimean Situation

LD2005194194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1845 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Kiev, 20 May (UKRINFORM-TASS)—A statement by the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry press center was distributed today to the mass media. It says:

"On 20 May, the Supreme Soviet of Crimea adopted a law on 'The restoration of the constitutional bases of the statehood of the Republic of Crimea,' thus making an attempt to restore Crimea's Constitution to its 6 May 1992 form. This law is unconstitutional and illegal. It is leading to tension in interethnic relations on the peninsula and in Ukraine as a whole, and brings into question the legal status of the Republic of Crimea as a constituent part of Ukraine, which represents a direct threat to the territorial integrity of Ukraine and peace and stability in the region."

In this connection A.M. Zlenko, Ukrainian foreign affairs minister, has sent letters to the UN secretary general, chairman of the Security Committee, CSCE chairman, NATO secretary general, heads of other international organizations, and foreign affairs ministers of other countries. In his letters the head of the Ukrainian foreign policy department stresses, in particular, that this unlawful decision, provoked by irresponsible policies of the present Crimean leadership, is aimed at undermining Ukraine's constitutional structures and its territorial integrity, and cannot be qualified as anything other than an open attempt by separatist forces to jeopardize internal political stability in Ukraine and bring about tension in relations between Ukraine and Russia. This puts in danger peace and stability in the region and in the whole of Europe, which, taking into account a complex current situation in this part of the continent, can have grave negative consequences.

"Today, when the European countries participating in the Conference on the Pact on Stability in Europe have agreed on the exceptional importance of the unconditional preservation and consolidation of the principles of territorial integrity, and the inviolability of existing borders as a guarantee of peace and security in Europe, such separatist strivings by the leadership of the Republic of Crimea could lead to the further erosion of these fundamental international legal principles, upon which European stability is based.

"In the event of the situation escalating further as a consequence of irresponsible steps by extremist forces in Crimea, Ukraine reserves the right to adopt all necessary measures to ensure unconditionally the territorial integrity of the state in accordance with its constitution and existing legislation, while observing the norms of international law."

Defense Ministry Statement on Crimean Situation

LD2005195194 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] A statement by the press center of Ukraine's Defense Ministry:

Certain political forces are continuing to exacerbate the already tense situation around the Crimea. Confirmation of this is the attempt by a group of unidentified armed people to seize a command post of a unit of Ukraine's air defense troops in the town of Sevastopol. However, the precisely organized guarding of the facility and the resolute actions by servicemen of Ukraine's Armed Forces were an obstacle in the criminals' path.

The telephone call by Mr. (Mykhaylov), an aide to the president of the Republic of Crimea, to Lieutenant General Mykhaylo Lopatin, commander of Ukraine's air defense troops, also evokes certain reflections. The former employee of the Personnel Department [Osobovyy Viddil] of the USSR KGB was suddenly interested in what the Ukrainian air defense forces would do in the event of the unsanctioned appearance of aircraft from foreign states over the Crimea.

The press service of Ukraine's Defense Ministry confirms the reply by the commander of the air defense forces that in cases of violations of Ukraine's air space the air defense troops will act in accordance with the regulations on combat duty, employing the necessary forces and means.

In this context, the latest resolution by Crimea's Supreme Council on Crimeans undergoing military service only on the territory of the peninsula also puts one on one's guard. This document not only runs counter to Ukraine's current legislation and the demands of the state's defense capabilities, but also creates additional tension in society and among the troops.

The press service of Ukraine's Defense Ministry states that military formations of Ukraine's Armed Forces deployed in the Crimea are subordinate to the Defense Ministry of Ukraine and will carry out orders of the supreme commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the defense minister of Ukraine in the interests of ensuring our state's territorial integrity, its defense capabilities, and the inviolability of its borders. Any provocative actions directed against Ukraine and its Armed Forces will continue to be resolutely repulsed.

Defense Ministry Denounces Grachev for Rumors About Troops

LD2105142594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1345 GMT 21 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 21 May—The Ukrainian Defense Ministry has described as "nothing but rumors" the reports in the Russian media on the concentration of Ukrainian troops near Sevastopol and Simferopol.

"This blatant lie is being circulated with references to Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, which is surprising, to say the least," said the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's press service today. "It remains to be guessed whether this is another political ploy of the Russian defense minister or merely his habitual trust in dubious sources of information."

The Ukrainian Defense Ministry's press service is authorized to declare that "the interference of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry in the affairs of the united Black Sea Fleet which, under the Yalta agreement, is subordinated directly to the presidents of Ukraine and Russia, stands in the way of a civilized solution to the fleet division issue and creates a dangerous tension in the situation in the Crimea."

Defense Minister Vows To Keep Crimea 'at Any Cost'

LD2005164094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1626 GMT 20 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Kiev/Moscow 20 May TASS—"The reaction will be clear: This is a Ukrainian territory and all Ukrainian legislative measures will be taken. The most tough, extreme measures will be taken against violators of the state border and territorial integrity of Ukraine," Ukrainian Defence Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy told the NTV Russian independent television today, speaking of the Crimean issue.

"We will not reckon with something or somebody. The Crimea is an integral part of Ukraine, and we will give it to nobody at any cost. This must be known by everyone. The persons who provoked this situation will be the first to carry full responsibility," said the minister.

Crimea Given 10-Day Ultimatum To Drop Constitution Decision

LD2005174694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 May 94

[Video report by correspondent Murtazin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today, Leonid Kravchuk held a meeting to discuss the political situation in Crimea. The president of Ukraine intends to cancel the decision taken by the Crimean Supreme Soviet to restore the Crimean Constitution of 6 May 1992, according to which legal relations between Ukraine and Crimea are on a treaty basis and the people of Crimea have the right to dual citizenship. Earlier on television, Kravchuk announced that he will act decisively and consistently within the Constitution to protect Ukraine's territorial integrity.

At the same time, in Kiev, the republic's Supreme Council is meeting behind closed doors and the president is expected to speak. He intends to persuade the deputies to cancel the verdict by the Crimean Supreme Council and will most likely get approval for introducing a regime of special rule in Crimea.

[Announcer Nelli Petkova] Our correspondent has just reported that Ukraine's Supreme Council has adopted the following decision: To recommend that Crimea's Supreme Soviet reexamine and cancel its constitutional decision. If it fails to do so, in 10 days a decision by the Ukraine's Supreme Council on suspending the acts in question adopted by the Crimean parliament will automatically come into force. This decision was made at about 2000 Moscow time.

The deputies then started to set up a special deputies' commission, which, along with people's deputies from Crimea, will go to Simferopol to settle all these problems.

Kiev Qualifies Crimean Actions as Step Toward Secession

LD2005204194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1715 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Kiev, [no dateline as received]—At the evening plenary session of the Ukrainian Supreme Council held behind closed doors today, the president of Ukraine submitted a draft resolution of the Supreme Council of Ukraine "On stopping the effect of the Law of the Republic of Crimea 'On restoring the constitutional fundamentals of the statehood of the Republic of Crimea.'" It, in particular, states that today the Supreme Council of Crimea, as a matter of fact, restored the provision of the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea in its 6 May 1992 wording, which deals, first and foremost, with the establishment of relations between Crimea and Ukraine on the basis of treaties and agreements, and the introduction of Crimean citizenship. All this is a step toward Crimea's secession from the composition of Ukraine, which violates the territorial integrity of Ukraine, its state sovereignty, and contradicts the principles of international law.

According to the legislation currently in force, the top state power bodies in the Republic of Crimea have no right to solve the issues that are within the competence of the state bodies of Ukraine. The volume of the plenary powers of the Republic of Crimea cannot be changed without the consent of the Supreme Council of Ukraine.

The resolution envisages "with the aim of protecting state sovereignty and ensuring the supremacy of the laws of Ukraine on its entire territory TO STOP [capitals as per original text] the effect of the Law of the Republic of Crimea of 20 May 1994 'On restoring the constitutional fundamentals of the statehood of the Republic of Crimea' as such that contradicts the declaration on state sovereignty and the Constitution of Ukraine." The Supreme Council of Ukraine proposes that the parliament of Crimea should bring the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea in line with the Constitution and the legislation of Ukraine within 10 days.

Today, political leaders, parties, and public organizations expressed their attitudes toward the decisions by the Supreme Council of Crimea.

Vasyl Durdynets, chairman of the parliamentary group "Tsentr" [Center]:

In general, my attitude toward any sanctions is very cautious. But with regard to the concrete situation in Crimea, when Ukraine allocates its last money, withdrawing it from other regions (for example, 50 billion karbovantsi were transferred to Sevastopol on 18 May), while the leadership of Crimea intentionally continues to act contrary, sanctions on the part of Ukraine would be logical and legitimate in order to bring those who stake their all against our state down to earth. Probably, it is not expedient to resort to extremities and introduce a state of emergency, however, I do not know any state that would respond to such actions of its region so reluctantly. I believe that in the last resort we will appeal to the world public.

Deputy Prime Minister Mykola Zhulynskyy, people's deputy of the Supreme Council of Ukraine:

I am extremely worried about what I have seen in Crimea of late. First and foremost, this is the opposition between the Majlis of the Crimean Tatar people and President Yuriy Meshkov. The Crimean Tatars favor Ukraine's territorial integrity and openly declare that they smell gunpowder in the air. In my opinion, Yuriy Meshkov is provoking the aggravation of the situation. Serhiy Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, whom I met at a mourning ceremony in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Crimean Tatars' deportation, declared that he was inclined to the necessity of setting up a commission of the Supreme Council of Crimea to hold consultations with the representatives of the Supreme Council of Ukraine on issues of Crimean Tatars and relations between Ukraine and Crimea. (As UNIAN reported today in a special release, such a commission, chaired by Serhiy Tsekov, was set up at the Supreme Council of Crimea session on 20 May).

The People's Movement of Ukraine [Rukh], in its appeal to the citizens of Ukraine, states that the actions by the Supreme Council of Crimea endanger Ukraine's territorial integrity and lead to igniting a fratricidal war as a result of which peace in Ukraine and, therefore, in the entire European and Black Sea region, is endangered. The appeal asserts that all the actions by the "helmsmen of Crimea are encouraged by the deputies to the Russian Federation State Duma, with the president of Russia being aware of this." In the opinion of the authors of the appeal, the interests of the 700,000-strong Ukrainian population in Crimea and also the interests of the Crimean Tatars are totally ignored.

Stepan Khmara, people's deputy, chairman of the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party:

This antistate act must be stopped by the most radical means, because this is an attempt upon the integrity of the state. Yuriy Meshkov and his company must be arrested as conspirators. The president's veto is insufficient at this point, more radical actions are necessary, all structures must be involved to protect the state.

Volodymyr Marchenko, people's deputy of Ukraine, one of the leaders of the Socialist Party of Ukraine parliamentary group:

Socialists will not agree to Crimea's secession from Ukraine. The territorial integrity of the state envisages Crimea within the composition of Ukraine. This is unequivocal.

Participants in the Political Parties Club, which is taking place in Kiev (the Ukrainian Party of Justice, the Party of Free Peasants, the Constitutional-Democratic Party of Ukraine, the Social- Democratic Party of Ukraine, the Democratic Party of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Republican Party, People's Movement of Ukraine, the Labor Congress of Ukraine, and the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists), adopted an appeal to the president and the chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine "in connection with the aggravation of the political situation in Ukraine, first and foremost, connected with Crimea" to hold a joint meeting for consultations and the soonest possible solution of the existing problem.

Deputies Say Constitution Does Not Mean Crimea's Secession

WS2005112294 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The Presidium of the Sixth Crimean Supreme Council today adopted a law of the Crimean Republic on restoring the constitutional foundations of the Crimean Republic's statehood. Thus, the fundamental law of the Crimean Republic from 6 May 1992 was restored on the territory of the peninsula.

In this way, the deputies ignored an appeal by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, asking them not to take such a dangerous step aimed at encroaching upon Ukraine's territorial integrity. (?As early as yesterday), Crimean President Meshkov asked the deputies to temporarily suspend the debate on this issue. Deputies, however, did not listen.

Arguments in favor of restoring the constitution in its previous form were voiced at the session, mainly referring to the Crimean people's [word indistinct] and will expressed during a presidential poll. It was emphasized that a return to the previous constitution does not mean Crimea's secession from Ukraine. Article (?11) of the constitution from 6 May 1992 states that the Crimean Republic is a part of Ukraine, and that its relations with Ukraine are based on agreements and treaties. The law of the Crimean Republic on restoring the constitutional foundations of the Crimean Republic's statehood was adopted without including it on the agenda; 69 out of 83 deputies present at the session voted for adopting it. The session also appointed a delegation for talks with the Ukrainian Supreme Council.

Zvyahilskyy: 'Special Regime' in Crimea Possible

LD2005124594 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1100 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Yukhym Zvyahilskyy, acting Ukrainian prime minister, has not ruled out the possibility of imposing a special regime of administration in the Crimea. He is convinced the Republic's parliament would support such a decision.

Crimean Supreme Soviet Suspends Kravchuk Decrees in Crimea

LD2005200094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1740 GMT 20 May 94

[Report by UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[Text] Simferopol 20 May TASS—At its evening meeting on Friday [20 May] the Crimean parliament decided to suspend on the territory of the peninsula the Ukrainian president's decrees "on departments of Justice of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine" and "on the Main Department of the Security Service in the Crimea." Deputies adopted this decision on the basis of the restored constitution of the Republic of the Crimea of 6 May 1992.

A similar resolution concerning the Ukrainian president's decree on the main interior department of the Crimea under the Interior Ministry of Ukraine was adopted by deputies of the Crimean parliament on 19 May this year.

Reiterates Aim To Return to Russia

LD2005192394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1815 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] "The Crimean and USSR referendums of 20 January and 17 March 1991, public opinion surveys in the republic and the spring elections to the Supreme Soviet of Crimea this year... The fervor of the patriotic movement of Crimeans have demonstrated beyond doubt the irreversible desire to return to the bosom of their age-old homeland—Russia." The above statements are contained in the drafts of addresses seen by deputies of the Crimean Supreme Soviet today to the Ukrainian parliament and Russian State Duma.

The draft address to the Ukrainian parliament, adopted at its first reading, states that "the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet would be making a gesture of profound wisdom if it stated on behalf of Ukraine, a brethren nation, that the transfer of Crimea to Ukraine by Russia in 1954 without the consent of its citizens was unjust and an illegal voluntarist act by irresponsible individuals."

The draft says the Crimean people should have the right to decide to which country it should be joined. For its part, the Crimean Supreme Soviet is prepared to adopt the necessary resolution and hold a nationwide referendum on the issue, monitored by Ukraine and the United Nations. The question would be worded in the appropriate manner and bear the signature of the Supreme Soviet of Crimea.

The draft address to Russia's State Duma contains an appeal to "finally... Approve and bring to life the Russian Supreme Soviet's resolution of 21 May, 1992, on a legal assessment of the decision by the RSFSR authorities in 1954 to alter the status of Crimea."

In accordance with section two of the resolution, the Crimean Supreme Soviet is prepared to adopt the necessary resolution and hold a nationwide referendum on the issue with an appropriately worded question.

"The Supreme Soviet of Crimea is counting on decisive decisions being made jointly with the state Duma on the speedy and final definition of Russian federal status for Crimea," the draft reads.

Crimean Communist Leader on Constitution Decision

LD2005213594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2100 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Sevastopol, 20 May—Leonid Hrach, head of the Communist Party of Crimea, commenting on today's decision by the Crimean Supreme Council to renew the operation of the autonomy's Constitution in its 1992 form, called on the parliamentarians to stop and not to let the decision, which was adopted, provoke a military conflict in the Crimea. "If blood is spilled in the Crimea, we will not be able to talk about conducting any kind of reforms," he emphasized. Mr. Hrach addressed a proposal to Yuriy Meshkov, the president of the autonomy, to begin talks and consultations with Ukraine's leadership.

Incidentally, 69 out of 73 deputies (there are 98 deputies in Crimea's Supreme Council) voted to renew the Constitution of Crimea in its 1992 form. The group of Crimean Tatars (14 persons) refused to take part in the voting.

The statement by the Crimean Supreme Council's press center, which was disseminated today, says that the inclusion of this issue on the session's agenda had been done "at the will of the people of Crimea."

UNA-UNSO Nationalists Call for Martial Law in Crimea

LD2105113594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Kiev, 20 May—The Ukrainian National Assembly-Ukrainian National Self-Defense Organization [UNA-UNSO] people's deputies have submitted a draft resolution on settling the crisis situation in Crimea for consideration by the Supreme Council session. The UNA-UNSO resolution makes the following provision:

1. All Crimean administrative structures should be disbanded.

2. Emergency martial law should be introduced on the territory of Crimea.

3. All Crimean officials who are guilty of inflaming interethnic animosity, separatism and extremism should be arrested and held criminally responsible.

4. Additional Army and National Guard units should be brought into the territory of the peninsula to protect the civilian population from extremists.

5. Crimea's status as a republic should be annulled.

6. The performance of administrative functions in Crimea should be temporarily entrusted to the Ministry of Defense.

TV Guests Discuss Recent Crimean Events

LD2105155694

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 0715 GMT on 21 May, in a "How Shall We Live?" program, carries a 45-minute live studio discussion of current developments in the Crimea. The Russian guests include Ramazan Abdulatipov, deputy chairman of the Federation Council; Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov; Emil Pain, member of the presidential council; and academician Valeriy Shchegortsov. Crimean guests include President Yuriy Meshkov and Vice President Yevgeniy Saburov through a link-up studio in Simferopol.

Yuriy Meshkov begins by saying:

"The name of this television program is How Shall We Live? My reply is that we shall live normally. Those who have packed their suitcases and are planning to go on holiday to the Crimea don't need to unpack. What is happening and what is behind it? Typical political games. In this particular case they have been generated by a forthcoming event in Ukraine—the Ukrainian presidential elections. And all the games are around this event. It is important not to go too far with these games. "As for the Crimea, all is quiet here. We have no reason to be alarmed. But, naturally, this does not mean that one can forget about us, give us up, and not help us to resolve problems, which Russia's involvement would obviously help in tackling."

Ramazan Abdulatipov says:

"Most of the Crimean problems are political. They must be resolved by politicians. Yuriy Aleksandrovich Meshkov was absolutely right when he said politicians, instead of resolving the problems...[pauses]. I have dozens of agreements signed by the Russian and Ukrainian presidents. In fact, these agreements are not being implemented by either side. To a larger degree, they are not being implemented by—I don't want to attack the Ukrainian side now—they are not being implemented by the Ukrainian side, in fact.

"I agree the present problem has been whipped up by the current political struggle in Ukraine. Because Ukrainian politicians were frightened by the fact that socialists and communists were coming back to take part in the parliamentary elections. And under the circumstances a new spur of nationalism is needed—I would put it that way—and to stir up nationalism, especially in western areas, the Crimean factor is being used, instead of resolving the matter in the interests of the Black Sea Fleet sailors, in the interests of Russia and Ukraine.

"Moreover, and I would like to stress it again, it is impossible to find a single person in Russia who would admit that the Crimea is part of Ukraine. But this does not mean in any way the problem should be resolved by strong-arm methods destroying the integrity of the existing Ukrainian state. I would like to stress again that people and, above all, the military, become hostages of politicians. These people should be released."

Emil Pain adds:

"I have been studying conflicts for a long time. It happens practically every time that there cannot be one side in a conflict. If there is a conflict brewing, both sides are adding gunpowder to it. Therefore the rule that says look at yourself first and ask yourself whether you are doing everything right should be addressed to the Crimean leaders and the Crimean parliament."

Meshkov says:

"What circumstance cannot be changed by anyone? The circumstance that geographically the Crimea is connected with Ukraine and Russia. Nobody can change the geographical position and, as far as I know, nobody is going to encroach upon it.

"But there is another circumstance that does not depend on politicians and that cannot be changed by anyone. The circumstance that before 1954 [when the Crimea became part of Ukraine following a decree by Nikita Khrushchev] and after 1954, the people of the Crimea were and remain part of the Russian people. It is another matter that administrative redivisions inside the Soviet

Union have introduced new circumstances, and it would be wise to take these circumstances into account.

"From the start, from the moment the Crimean president was elected, our moves, I mean, the moves of the government, and they were fully approved by the Crimean people, were aimed at achieving economic prosperity. And with this aim, economic reforms have been and are being implemented, economic relations are being established, and treaties are being signed with the subjects of the Russian Federation."

He adds:

"In the same way we can and must resolve the mutual problems arising in our relations with the Kiev administration. There is no other way. And we don't want any other way. Our only desire is to solve all problems causing tension in our relations. There is a way and a method of resolving problems by treaty. And it has been tried and approved by Russia already. It is a solution to the problem, and it has already been confirmed that it is possible. It is necessary and it produces positive results.

"We put forward the same proposal to the administration in Kiev. In return, you have already heard what has been taking place and what is artificially being whipped up to implement narrow individual political aims.

"I don't share the optimism of my colleagues in the Russian studio that the Ukrainian president will keep his word. You know, we have had so many opportunities to see the exact opposite. Evidently the efforts of public opinion should be mobilized to alleviate the task of the Ukrainian president in keeping his word."

Yevgeniy Saburov says:

"First of all, misunderstanding around the Constitution should be explained. Some disinformation is being spread that this is an act of secession, so to speak. This is absolutely wrong. The constitution states plainly that the Crimea is part of Ukraine. In fact, only one clause is at issue—the treaty question. We have been exhausted by the fact that we cannot understand what we can and cannot do."

Back in Moscow, the announcer reads out messages from viewers who express concern over the future of the Black Sea Fleet. Marshal Shaposhnikov says:

"All these processes began at the end of 1991 and are still going on now. In practice they have not been resolved because of political ambitions. What can I propose? The navy of the former USSR consisted of four constituent parts: the Pacific, Northern, Baltic, and Black Sea. As regards the first three, there are no problems. They belong to Russia and nobody else is laying claim to their constituent parts.

"As for the Black Sea Fleet, there are three sides at present which, in my opinion, are legally aspiring to some part of it—Russia, Ukraine, and Georgia. As one knows, there are 11 states in the CIS. Most of them signed the CIS collective security treaty. Ukraine did not sign the treaty. Consequently, one-eleventh of the Black Sea fleet should be given to Ukraine. As for the remaining parts of the fleet, ten-elevenths of it should be subordinated to the CIS combined armed forces, which would ensure collective security in the Mediterranean region where, as one knows, there is an American presence with nuclear missiles. This part, the main part of the Black Sea fleet, could watch moves by our partner—we hope it will be our ally one day but at present peace is fragile, as one knows—in the interests of the whole of the Commonwealth and not one individual side. With financial quotas and so on. If it is difficult for some CIS states, even members of the CIS security system, to support their one-eleventh of the fleet, they can delegate their part to a third party; for example, in exchange for oil, gas, coal, metal, grain, for anything in fact."

Abdulatipov says:

"It is a very serious problem. More than 50,000 Ukrainian troops are concentrated in the Crimea at present. Literally a few days ago special purpose troops were redeployed there. The Berkut, Sokol, and other groups have been redeployed there. I received this information from Sevastopol this morning. The situation is that any provocation might lead to a wide-scale conflict. Therefore, it would be a good thing for our politicians to start negotiating and implementing the agreements that have already been signed."

Emil Pain adds:

"I am ready to admit and I think one should admit that the Russian media are biased in their coverage of the problem. For example, our TV link today is between Russia and the Crimea. Yet we are talking of Ukraine all the time. It would be perfectly reasonable if Ukraine were taking part in the program.

"I don't think we should go into details about the origin of the word Ukraine. It is an independent state at present recognized by the UN. The Crimean constitution says the Crimea remains part of the Ukrainian state. I think certain complaints should be made to the Crimean leadership. And if we are talking here about how to help the Ukrainian president to keep his promise not to use force, to a large degree this depends on the actions of the Crimean leadership. You are talking of negotiations, but unilateral actions are a very bad condition for any negotiations. I am not talking here of the content of the constitution adopted by the Crimean parliament, but it is an absolute fact that the parliament adopted it unilaterally."

In return, Meshkov says:

"I would like to remind you that the most acute issue, the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, was excluded from the competence and involvement of the Crimea by a decision of the Kiev administration. Ukrainian Defense Minister Radetskyy, he was perhaps the first official in the Kiev administration who isolated the Crimea from

Ukraine when he categorically refused to allow the Crimean Republic, representatives of the Crimean president, to participate or at least to be present silently at the talks on the Black Sea Fleet. This situation is unthinkable for any sensible person, and it is quite difficult to understand it from the political point of view, since the problem is being resolved on Crimean territory. This problem concerns the citizens of Crimea and directly touches upon our interests. And not to take them into account is physically impossible, but it seems it is possible politically."

He adds:

"Our intention is to reach an agreement, to resolve all points at issue, not to walk away from them but to resolve them on mutually beneficial and mutually acceptable conditions. And a treaty would make it possible to define the range of problems and solve them. And I would like it very much if first of all there could be a treaty between the Crimea and Ukraine to stabilize the situation and define and create preconditions for a treaty between Ukraine and Russia, which is inevitable and necessary, I think. But only that way round—no other way at all—since otherwise we should be prevented from resolving the points at issue.

"I don't think our non-participation will have a beneficial effect on the results of the talks. We realize our responsibility to the people of Ukraine and to the people of Russia since we are part of it. We are aware of possible consequences of preserving and implementing a tripartite agreement between Russia, Ukraine, and the United States. But we would also like, and, I think, we are entitled to expect, that our wishes to reach an agreement will be supported and guaranteed by all the parties."

Yevgeniy Saburov says:

"The Crimea can make no claims whatsoever on Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. We Russians and Ukrainians are fraternal peoples. We have a lot of Ukrainians here. We do not really make any distinction by nationality. What is under discussion here is a particular Kiev administration that has appeared at a particular time and seems to be a temporary one, rather than confrontation between the Crimea and Ukraine, which is being whipped up artificially."

More National Guardsmen Arriving in Sevastopol

LD2105103094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] The press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry made a statement on Friday [20 May] evening reporting an attempt by a group of armed people on 19 May to seize a command post of Ukraine's combined air defense troops in Sevastopol.

However, (Vladimir Lepikhev), chairman of Crimea's security service, denied those reports at today's morning session of the Crimean parliament.

Meanwhile, INTERFAX has learned that the uncontrolled deployment of special purpose troops and Ukrainian National Guardsmen on the peninsula is continuing. During the night of 20-21 May, around 250 National Guardsmen arrived in Sevastopol and redeployed on the territory of the Ukrainian armed forces naval institute. The arrival of another 350 to 400 Guardsmen in Sevastopol is expected in the near future.

Ukrainian Navy Sends Two Battalions

LD2105165194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1401 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] It has become known that a reinforced tank battalion and an anti-aircraft anti-missile battalion of the coastal defense formation of the Black Sea Fleet will be transferred to Sevastopol in the near future," the Ukrainian Navy press centre said in a statement on Saturday [21 May].

The battalions will be included in the Black Sea Fleet marine brigade.

National Guard Denies Simferopol Unit on Combat Alert

LD2205172894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] We have received a statement from the press service of the commander of Ukraine's National Guard:

As has become well-known, Valeriy Kuznetsov, Crimea's minister of internal affairs, has disseminated false information that the subunits of Ukraine's National Guard, which are deployed in Simferopol, were supposedly brought to combat readiness and received an order to storm the town's vital facilities. In truth, the Simferopol guardsmen's military unit personnel are in their barracks.

On the evening of 21 May, Viktor Mezhak, first deputy chairman of the Crimea's Supreme Council, visited the unit with a group of deputies, who ascertained that the guardsmen had normal everyday concerns unconnected with some kind of emergency preparations. In particular, Aleksandr Kostikov, commander of the unit, reported that he had not received any orders and had not given the order to his subordinates to prepare for any emergency actions.

And here Valeriy Kuznetsov resorted to deceit to have a reason for his own provocative actions. At about 1800 [1500 GMT] on 21 May, the minister brought the employees of the Crimean Internal Affairs Ministry to increased combat readiness and armed them with automatic weapons. He ordered them to carry out reinforced protection of the television and radio center, the telephone exchange, and the Supreme Council of Crimea.

The press service of the commander of Ukraine's National Guard states: The guard's subunits are in the places of their permanent deployment. The citizens of

Simferopol may be calm. Ukraine's National Guard is not preparing for the assaults invented by Mr. Kuznetsov.

Ukrainian Armored Vehicles Enter Simferopol

LD2205175694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1735 GMT 22 May 94

[Report by UKFRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol, 22 May—This evening 29 armored personnel carriers of the Ukrainian Armed Forces entered Simferopol carrying additional military personnel. The APC's, which had arrived in convoy from Dzhankoy, are now maneuvering in the northern part of Simferopol.

Government institutions and the premises of the Crimean Supreme Soviet are being guarded by Crimean Cossack formations supported by militia. Additional Cossack contingents arrived in Simferopol today under orders from Viktor Ratiyev, Supreme Ataman of the Union of Cossack Troops of Russia and the Near Abroad.

A report has just come in from Sevastopol, saying that land-based units of the Black Sea Fleet are conducting maneuvers in the area of Sevastopol.

Kiev Denies Sending Armored Vehicles

LD2205205994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2048 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Moscow/Kiev 22 May TASS— The situation on the Crimean Peninsula remains rather tense. According to a spokesman for the Crimean president, 29 Ukrainian armoured personnel vehicles entered the regional capital Simferopol on Sunday [22 May] night. With this in view, the Crimean Interior Ministry reinforced its units securing key government buildings, including the main broadcasting centre and parliament headquarters, the spokesman reported.

According to reliable military sources, the armoured vehicles brought by railway are now deployed at the station of Simferopol.

The Black Sea Fleet's combat units are staying at their usual locations, a spokesman for the fleet's headquarters told TASS. Because of the volatile situation in the Crimea, the fleet reinforced the guard of its installations, but there are no manoeuvres or redeployment.

Meanwhile, in an interview with national television on Sunday night, Ukraine's First Deputy Interior Minister Valentin Nedrigailo denied reports about sending Ukrainian armoured personnel vehicles to Simferopol. According to him, the situation in the Crimea and Ukraine is quite calm.

Interior Official Denies Impending Clashes in Simferopol

LD2305125994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] First Deputy Ukrainian Interior Minister Valentin Nedrigailo called allegations of an impending armed confrontation in Simferopol as a stupid statement. He told INTERFAX-Ukraine on Sunday [22 May] evening that people were walking across the city and nothing was happening. "This is a state of illness" when one imagines intervention and troops in the streets, he remarked.

Nedrigailo pointed out that there had been complete mutual understanding and confidence between the Ukrainian and the Crimean interior ministries. He added that the Ukrainian National Guard units were carrying out their law enforcement duties together with Crimean police officers.

Commenting on the information concerning Ukrainian armored vehicles in Simferopol, Nedrigailo said their arrival in Simferopol had been made known long ago. First Deputy Crimean Parliament Chairman Viktor Mezhak and a group of Crimean parliamentarians had been present when the armored vehicles arrived on Saturday.

Nedrigailo announced that about twenty armored vehicles had come. Non-official sources said that there had been about 29 armored vehicles arriving in Simferopol.

It is just normal equipment of the National Guards with armored carriers, Nedrigailo emphasized.

Crimean Leader Praises Council on Restoring Constitution

LD2105132494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1130 GMT 21 May 94

[Excerpts] Kiev, [no dateline as received]—At the Crimean Supreme Council's plenary sitting on 21 May, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov congratulated the deputies on the adoption of the Crimean law "On restoring the constitutional basis of the Republic of Crimea's statehood" and declared that the constitution he had sworn allegiance to was that adopted on 6 May 1992.

Yuriy Meshkov gave an account of his tour of Krasnodar on 20 May, where he took part in the work of the Association of Socio-Economic Cooperation between North Caucasian republics, krays, and oblasts. At the association's sitting in Krasnodar, Crimea was admitted to this North Caucasian organization as an associate member. In Yuriy Meshkov's words, preparations for Crimea's entry into the association had been under way for six months, especially since his election as president. During his stay in Krasnodar, the Crimean president also took part in the work of the Grand Assembly of

Cossack Host Atamans and met representatives of the Krasnodar kray public. [passage omitted]

Crimean Supreme Council Deputy Viktor Mezhak informed the deputies that, under the accord of 21 May with the head of the Supreme Council of Ukraine Secretariat, a Crimean Supreme Council delegation, to be led by Crimean parliamentary speaker Serhiy Tsekov, would meet a Ukrainian Supreme Council delegation, to be led by Borys Oliynyk, in Kiev next week. [passage omitted]

Council Suspends Crimean Law Reinstating Statehood Rights

LD2105131894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1217 GMT 21 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 21 May—The Ukrainian Supreme Council has suspended the Crimean law that reinstates the constitutional foundation of statehood for this autonomous republic. The resolution adopted by the Ukrainian Supreme Council proposes that within 10 days the Crimean Supreme Council bring the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea in line with the Constitution of Ukraine and the law on the division of powers between the bodies of state power of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea.

The Ukraine Supreme Council considers that the Crimean parliamentarians, by adopting such a decision, intend to build future relations between Ukraine and Crimea on the basis of agreements and to introduce Crimean citizenship. In their opinion, this is a step toward Crimea's seceding from Ukraine. This violates Ukraine's territorial integrity and state sovereignty and contradicts the recognized principles of international law. According to previously adopted legislative acts, the supreme state bodies of the Republic of Crimea do not have the right to decide issues that lie exclusively within the competence of Ukraine's state bodies, and the volume of the powers of the Republic of Crimea cannot be changed without the permission of the Ukrainian Supreme Council.

The resolution, which has been signed by Aleksandr Moroz, head of the Ukrainian parliament, will be deemed invalid if the Crimean Supreme Council abolishes the law on the reinstatement of the constitutional foundation of the statehood of the Republic of Crimea.

Crimean Legislature Ready for Talks With Kiev

LD2105164094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1244 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] The Crimean legislature is ready to hold talks with Ukraine's parliament, but it will not accept conditions set by Kiev, the head of the Russia parliamentary faction, Sergey Nikulin, who leads the parliamentary commission on legislation, law, order and national development, told Interfax-Ukraina on Saturday [21 May].

A Crimean parliamentary delegation led by the Speaker, Sergey Tsekov, is expected to meet with a Ukrainian parliamentary delegation in Kiev on Tuesday.

As we already reported, on Friday Ukraine's parliament urged the Crimean parliament to cancel its Thursday's resolution issued to revert to the Crimean Constitution adopted on 6 May 1992.

Besides, Ukraine's parliament suspended the bill adopted to restore the Crimean Constitution of 6 May 1992. Under that Constitution all relations between the Crimea and Ukraine are built on the basis of agreement, and the people of the Crimea are entitled to "dual citizenship."

Ukraine's parliament adopted a resolution suggesting that the Crimean parliament should annul its decision within 10 days.

Crimean Appeals to UN, Russia, People of Ukraine

LD2105134294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1312 GMT 21 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik; all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Kiev, 21 May— "The leadership of Ukraine has taken a series of measures aimed at destroying the statehood of the Republic of Crimea. It threatens to use force, including military force," says an appeal of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea, which was adopted today. It is addressed to the United Nations, the UN Security Council, the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the president of the Russian Federation, the Russian Federal Assembly, and the people of Ukraine.

The document says, among other things, that "the Crimean Supreme Council adopted the law on restoring the constitutional foundations of the statehood of the Republic of Crimea on the basis of a poll taken among the Republic's citizens. This means that from now on the authority in economy, education, culture, and local self-government will be executed entirely by the people of Crimea."

The Crimean parliamentarians think that "not a single item in the Constitution of the Crimean Republic infringes upon the territorial integrity of the Ukraine, nor does it lead to any revision of the existing state border. Chapter 3, Article 9 of the Constitution states: "The Crimean Republic forms part of Ukrainian and determines its relations with that state on the basis of a treaty and agreements." The Crimean Supreme Council confirms its adherence to the principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The Crimean Supreme Council expressed the hope that the international community will not permit lawless acts on the part of Ukraine's organs of state power nor any violation of the rights and freedoms proclaimed by the "Universal Declaration of the Rights of Man."

Report on Crimean Supreme Council Chairman's News Briefing

LD2105145994 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1345 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] We have already talked about the Crimean situation a few times today and now we have our correspondent in Simferopol Vladimir Plotnikov on the line to the Mayak studio. Hello, Vladimir, we're listening to you.

[Plotnikov] Good afternoon. There really is a lot to say on the subject of Crimea, and Sergey Tsekov, chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, has just finished a news conference in Simferopol. I'm sure that you'll get more information about that later, but I'll tell you now what the gist of it was.

Well, first of all, he was saying that the situation is tense; listeners already will know that, though media reports are very contradictory. According to Sergey Tsekov himself, the situation is tense but under control. There are no public disorders whatsoever, and the resorts are functioning normally. The weather's great, too.

The session of Crimea's Supreme Soviet went on today. One way or another, the deputies touched on future relations between Simferopol and Kiev and, as Sergey Tsekov said, they will develop on the basis of talks and, first off, on the basis of legality. A delegation of the Crimean Supreme Soviet has been formed for talks on the problems in Crimeo-Ukrainian relations. But it would be best if such a meeting was held in Crimea. That would enable the situation to be examined more deeply on the spot.

The main point at the talks will be the economic question. A telephone conversation has taken place between the presidents of Ukraine and Crimea, but Sergey Tsekov was unable to reveal any of its contents. The Crimean Supreme Soviet has still to receive any signals from Moscow either on the reaction of the Russian State Duma to Crimean events.

The Ukrainian defense and interior ministries are continuing to shuffle leading officials and deploy troops in Crimea without consultaion with the leadership of the autonomous republic. They are thus ignoring the law on delegation of responsibilities between Crimea and Ukraine.

A picket in support of the Crimean president and Supreme Soviet and the 6 May constitution is still outside the Crimean Supreme Soviet building, but there are less people on the square now and the cossacks have disappeared. On the whole, a pause has settled over the war of decrees and in the relations between Crimea and Ukraine. Clearly, a sort of status quo is emerging before the start of the talks. The talks may be held in about 10 days' time.

Supreme Council Resolution on Crimea

LD2105172494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Ukraine's Supreme Council has adopted a resolution on halting the operation of the law of the Republic of Crimea on renewing the constitutional basis of the Republic of Crimea's statehood:

On 20 May 1994, the Republic of Crimea's Supreme Council adopted a law on renewing the constitutional basis of the Republic of Crimea's statehood, which renews clauses of the Republic of Crimea's Constitution in its 6 May 1992 form. These clauses in the Constitution were changed in September 1992 by the Republic of Crimea's Supreme Council itself in accordance with the law of Ukraine on the delimitation of powers between the state authority bodies of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea.

Above all, it is about establishing relations between the Crimea and Ukraine on the basis of treaties and agreements and about introducing Crimean citizenship. This is a step toward Crimea leaving the composition of Ukraine, which violates the territorial integrity of Ukraine and its state sovereignty, and runs counter to the universally recognized principles of international law.

In accordance with Article 75 of Ukraine's Constitution, the Crimean Autonomous Republic is a constituent part of Ukraine and can resolve independently only those issues attributed to its authority. The competence of state authority bodies of the Republic of Crimea is determined by the above-mentioned law of Ukraine on the delimitation of powers between the state bodies of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea. In accordance with Article 11 of this law, the higher bodies of state authority of the Republic of Crimea do not have the right to resolve issues belonging to the exclusive authority of the state bodies of Ukraine. The extent of the powers of the Republic of Crimea, in accordance with Ukraine's legislation, cannot be changed by the Republic of Crimea without the consent of Ukraine's Supreme Council.

Taking account of the above, and with the aim of protecting state sovereignty and ensuring the supremacy of the laws of Ukraine on all of its territory, and in accordance with Point 31 of Article 97 of the Constitution of Ukraine, Ukraine's Supreme Council resolves:

1. To halt the operation of the law of the Republic of Crimea of 20 May 1994 on renewing the constitutional basis of the Republic of Crimea's statehood as such that runs counters to the Declaration on Ukraine's State

Sovereignty, the demands of Articles 31, 70, 75, and 77 of the Constitution of Ukraine, and the laws of Ukraine on the delimitation of powers between the state authority bodies of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea and on citizenship of Ukraine;

2. To propose that the Republic of Crimea's Supreme Council brings the Republic of Crimea's Constitution into line with the Constitution of Ukraine and the laws of Ukraine on the delimitation of powers between the bodies of state authority of Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea within 10 days.

3. That this resolution loses its validity from the moment when the Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea revokes the law on renewing the constitutional basis of the Republic of Crimea's statehood.

You have been listening to Ukraine's Supreme Council resolution on halting the operation of the law of the Republic of Crimea on renewing the constitutional basis of the Republic of Crimea's statehood.

Zlenko Tells AFP Force Not To Be Used Unless Provoked

AU2105153794 Paris AFP in English 1513 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Kiev, 21 May (AFP)—Ukraine said Saturday [21 May] it would not use force against Crimea unless separatists there resort to armed provocation, after telling the UN and NATO that moves by the republic threaten regional peace and stability.

"We will abstain from using force, unless of course another party launches armed provocations," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko told AFP.

On Friday Crimean deputies voted to restore a 1992 constitution, a move tantamount to a declaration of independence.

Ukrainian lawmakers retaliated late Friday, giving the pro-Russian Crimean assembly 10 days to reverse its decision and "conform with the laws and constitution of Ukraine."

"I think we will have enough strength, will and self-restraint to find a settlement" to the crisis, Zlenko told AFP.

"We will take all the measures based on international law to assure the territorial integrity of the state," he added.

Crimea Cancels Ukrainian Supreme Council's Resolution

LD2105194394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1737 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] On Saturday [21 May] the Crimean parliament voted to suspend the resolution of the Ukrainian parliament dated 20 May, which in turn, suspended the law "On the restoration of the Constitution in the Republic of Crimea."

As it was reported earlier, on Friday the Ukrainian parliament suspended the Crimean law "On the restoration of the Constitution in the Republic of Crimea" and offered the Crimean parliament to put its legislation in line with the Ukrainian Constitution within 10 days.

Leader of the Russia faction, chairman of the Crimean parliamentary commission on legislation, law and state Sergey Nikulin told INTERFAX-Ukraine that the parliament was not going to cancel its law "On the restoration of the Constitution in the Republic of Crimea." At the same time, he said: "We are ready for dialogue with the Ukrainian parliament."

On Saturday the Crimean lawmakers issued an address to the UN Security Council and the CSCE, the president and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the people of Ukraine. The address confirms that "not a single article of the Crimean Constitution violates the territorial integrity of Ukraine or leads to the review of the current state border."

The address notes that "Ukrainian mass media backed by Ukrainian officials launched a campaign aimed at discrediting the constitutional bodies of Crimea, disinforming the international community." The Crimean parliament points out that the law "On the restoration of the Constitution in the Republic of Crimea" aims to provide the Crimean people with broad powers in the spheres of economy, education, and culture."

The Crimean parliament expressed hope that the international community would prevent the Ukrainian state power bodies from committing illegal actions.

Crimea's Tsekov Says No Secession From Ukraine Planned

LD2205114094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2030 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Simferopol, 21 May—Serhiy Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, has held a news conference at which he pointed out that the Republic of Crimea is not going to secede from Ukraine, and its decision is dictated not only by political but, first and foremost, by economic reasons. Mr. Tsekov pointed out that there is an agreement to hold negotiations on this issue between the parliaments of Ukraine and Crimea; according to him, a Ukrainian delegation, headed by Boris Oliynyk, will probably arrive in Simferopol. Otherwise, the Crimean delegation, headed by Serhiy Tsekov, would go to Kiev.

Concerning the signing of certain documents by the executive authorities of Crimea with the leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh, the chairman of the Crimean parliament pointed out that he sees nothing wrong in the fact that some friendly documents have been signed between the two states. Besides, the documents between the regions, according to Mr. Tsekov, are to be ratified by the Supreme Council of Crimea.

Crimean Interior Ministry Controlling Government Buildings

LD2205085494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Valeriy Gorbatov, the Ukrainian representative in Crimea, has told INTERFAX-Ukraine that the Crimean Republic's Interior Ministry on Saturday [21 May] took control of the main government buildings in the Crimea.

According to Gorbatov, the Crimean Interior Ministry units have been put on alert and have been given a basic supply of ammunition after a report that units of the National Guard in Simferopol were allegedly put on condition one combat readiness.

Valeriy Gorbatov said in this connection that in fact there has been no ground for the Interior Ministry's actions. In his words, units of the National Guard are in barracks and no measures to bring them to condition one combat readiness have been taken.

Talks Agreed Between Ukraine, Crimea on Settling Situation

LD2205095294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0930 GMT 22 May 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol, 22 May—The Crimean-Ukrainian parliamentary talks on unblocking the situation on the peninsula following the adoption of the law on restoring the Crimean Constitution of 6 May 1992 will be held in the next few days. On Monday [23 May] or Tuesday Simferopol and Kiev will hold consultations to finally agree the venue for the talks.

It has become known from trustworthy sources in Kiev that the Ukrainian delegation will be led by Boris Oleynik, who has expressed readiness to go to Simferopol.

Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov is currently in the Crimea after coming back from a working trip to the Kuban region on Friday. On Saturday evening for three hours he attended the extraordinary session of the Crimean Parliament, which was held behind closed doors. The internal political situation and the problems of settling the situation with Kiev around the Crimean Constitution of 6 April [as heard] 1992 were the center of attention.

Crimean Delegation Hopes for Successful Talks With Ukraine

LD2205134894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1309 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] "During the talks with the Ukrainian leadership we want to prove that we do not violate the Ukrainian constitution," leader of the Russia bloc faction in the Crimean parliament, Chairman of the Commission on State, Legislation and Law Sergey Nikulin told INTERFAX-Ukraine on Sunday [22 May].

Nikulin is a member of the Crimean parliamentary delegation which is expected to meet the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet delegation in Kiev on Tuesday in order to discuss the present situation.

"I do not think that the talks can fail. We have not only political goals. We want the Ukrainian people to see what in fact is happening in Crimea," Nikulin pointed out.

He repeated that the Crimean parliament would not annul its law on restoration of the constitutional basis of the Crimean statehood adopted on 20 May 1994.

This law by the Crimean parliament re-established the Crimean Constitution of 6 May 1992. In accordance with this version of the Constitution, relations between Ukraine and Crimea must be based on treaties and agreements and Crimean inhabitants have the right for dual citizenship.

Nikulin stressed that the Russia bloc stood for a union on the treaty basis both with Ukraine and Russia. "We have never wanted to withdraw Crimea from Ukraine. I hope this issue will not be raised," he added.

However, he emphasized that the issue on a new state status of Crimea could be considered if Ukraine made life of Crimeans within the composition of Ukraine unbearable.

On possible reunification of Crimea with Russia, Nikulin said there was no such purpose as a state reunification. However, he admitted that certain Crimean parliamentarians spoke in favor of this. He said that the Crimean parliament would be satisfied with the maximum of economic and cultural rights within the composition of Ukraine.

Nikulin confirmed that the Crimean parliament had no claims to the Ukrainian troops on Crimean territory since the troops had the right to be stationed in Crimea. He added that certain statements on the part of some Crimean politicians were just their point of view.

Kuznetsov Says Situation in Crimea 'Normal'

LD2205140094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] "The situation in Crimea is normal," Crimean Interior Minister Valeriy Kuznetsov told INTERFAX on Sunday [22 May]. "The ministry staff are working according to plan. Officers on duty keep working, while the others are having a rest," he said.

To quote Kuznetsov, the Crimean interior ministry units were not put into a state of combat readiness on Saturday.

"Only individual precaution measures were taken," said Kuznetsov.

He said that on Saturday evening, he was informed that the Ukrainian national guards had planned to seize the Crimean TV, radio and communication centers, and the buildings of the parliament, Cabinet and bank. "A group of Crimean deputies, who visited a unit of the Ukrainian national guard, could see that the national guards were ready and wanted to do so. Moreover, national guards themselves told the deputies that such a task had been assigned to them," said Kuznetsov.

He also announced that on Sunday this information was partially confirmed by Ukraine's First Deputy Interior Minister Valentin Nedrigailo, who admitted that at his request the task of establishing control over the Crimean TV center had been assigned to the national guards. "The TV center and the parliament building are always guarded by the police," said Kuznetsov.

He pointed out that no weapons had been given either to the police or to the special unit Berkut, because both of them were always armed. Berkut units daily patrol the streets. On Sunday they detained a 29-men strong grouping. On Saturday Berkut units were asked to find out what was happening near the parliament building, so they came to the place, assessed the situation and went away, he said.

Kuznetsov admitted that he had issued the order to enhance vigilance and that he had put only part of the personnel into a state of alert. "Now everything has got back to the initial situation. We are working tranquilly and are not planning any moves," he said.

To quote Kuznetsov, Crimea remains part of Ukraine. "If Kiev does not explode the situation, everything will go tranquily," he said.

He said that the hysterical campaign (over the Crimean parliament's decision to restore the constitution of 1992—INTERFAX) had been launched by the forces which intended to foil presidential elections scheduled for 26 June, not by the whole of Ukraine.

He pointed out that he meant President Kravchuk in the first place. [sentence as received] He noted, however, that other forces' attitude to the Crimea was "not quite loyal," either.

He believes that Crimea's position in relation to Kiev is similar to the position of Tatarstan in relation to Russia prior to the conclusion of the bilateral agreement. "Who has suffered from the agreement signed by Kazan and Moscow? The same might be said about Crimea," said Kuznetsov.

Kiev is absolutely unpredictable, he went on to say. "But if the Kiev politicians show common sense, everything will be normal: there are no reasons for fanning tensions. All problems can be solved at a negotiating table," he said.

He expressed hope that the talks between the Russian and Ukrainian prime ministers, to be held in Moscow on Monday, would be a success. "I think this meeting will confirm once again that all disputable issues must be tackled through talks. No one has the right to issue the order to use force," he said.

He pointed out that the political events had not had any impact on the crime situation in Crimea.

He acknowledged, however, that at this dramatic moment the interior ministry personnel were alarmed.

He said that the people of Crimea had the right to a choice within the limits not affecting the territorial integrity of Ukraine. "Nothing has changed. The constitution has been restored, but Crimea has not drifted away from Ukraine. One must simply give Crimea economic independence, so we could take care of our people on our own," said Kuznetsov.

Ukrainian Railways Not Asked To Move Troops Toward Crimea

LD2205161194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] In connection with reports by Russian mass media about the supposed redeployment of Ukrainian military units and formations in the direction of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the press service of Ukrzaliznytsya [Ukrainian Railways] made a statement on 22 May. In particular, it says that over the last 10 days Ukrzaliznytsya has not received or examined any requests from the Defense Ministry or the National Guard of Ukraine to move military cargoes, personnel, or military equipment in the direction of the Crimea.

Internal Affairs Ministry Calls on Crimea To Obey Kiev

LD2205175994 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Today, the board of Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry held an extended meeting. It examined the situation in the Republic of Crimea and adopted an appeal to the Supreme Council and president of the Crimean Republic, as well as the board's appeal to the interior bodies' personnel. It says, in particular, that a dangerous precedent was set for ignoring the laws of the

Ukrainian state, which is having a negative effect on the functioning of interior bodies in Crimea and, first of all, the state of law and order. An explosive situation is being provoked and mounted, suspicion and mistrust for the Ukrainian authorities is being planted.

The board of Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry is placing all responsibility for the current developments in Crimea and the possible unforseen consequences on Mr. Valeriy Kuznetsov, appointed to the abolished post of the Crimean internal affairs minister, and the forces that had created conditions for this.

Appealing to the Supreme Council and president of the Republic of Crimea, the board of Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry is counting on them to exercise foresight, wisdom, and consideration in their decisions concerning issues that relate to the functioning of such an important armed formation as interior bodies. The appeal also contains an expression of confidence that the Crimean leadership will revise their earlier decisions.

Issues Statement on Crimea

LD2205204194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] An extended sitting of the collegium of Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry took place on 22 May, at which the situation in Crimea was examined. A statement to Crimea's Supreme Council, president, and internal affairs personnel, as well as an appeal to Ukraine's internal affairs personnel, were adopted. Militia Colonel Ivan Lepchenko, head of the main public relations center of Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry, is in our studio:

[Lepchenko] I am authorized to make public the statement by Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry, the heads of the main internal affairs directorates in Kiev and Kiev Oblast, the internal affairs directorates of oblasts and the town of Sevastopol, and internal affairs directorates in transport, to the Republic of Crimea's Supreme Council, president, and internal affairs bodies.

Recently, says the statement, an extremely unhealthy situation has emerged around the Crimean internal affairs bodies. The situation is continuing to deteriorate because of the unlawful actions by Crimea's bodies of authority.

Crimean President Meshkov, exceeding his authorities, is vigorously interfering in the activity of internal affairs bodies, violating the law of Ukraine on the militia. Back in February of this year the president, without the knowledge of Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry, subordinated to himself a quarter of the employees of the special militia speedy reaction subunit, Berkut, which, instead of engaging in the campaign against dangerous crimes, were allocated for his as well as his family's personal protection, although a special protection service exists for this.

On 11 April Meshkov, accompanied by armed bodyguards, together with retired General Kuznetsov, former commander of a motor rifle corps, gained possession of the official office of Major General Plyuta, Crimea's internal affairs minister, and produced a handwritten decree removing him from his post and declaring Kuznetsov the acting minister.

These decisions, taken individually and without the consent of the Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry, violate the norms of the Ukrainian Constitution and the law on delimitation of powers between state power bodies of Ukraine and the Crimea, as well as the Ukrainian legal acts regulating military service in Ukrainian interior bodies.

The above actions by Meshkov are in fact meant to take the Crimean interior bodies out of the unified system of Ukraine's interior bodies laid down in the Ukrainian legislation. The collegium and the Ukrainian internal affairs minister himself have addressed President Meshkov more than once with a proposal to revoke the illegal decrees and directives and resolve issues concerning militia activities jointly with the Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry on the basis of Ukrainian laws. At different times, the Ukrainian internal affairs minister and three of his deputies went to Crimea for a special meeting with the Crimean president, but they were not received by Meshkov, and all of the Ukrainian internal Affairs Ministry's proposals were ignored.

In this connection, the collegium of Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry sent similar written proposals to the newly elected Crimean Supreme Council on 6 May, but there was no reply. Today, we can observe destabilization of law and order in Crimea. The number of serious crimes is rising, including murders, robberies, burglaries, and thefts, especially in the streets. Often, these involve the use of firearms, including machine guns, by organized crime gangs who are frequently engaged in bloody settling of scores.

Notwithstanding this, Kuznetsov's actions in ensuring citizens' safety are unprofessional and are inappropriate to the crime situation in the Crimea. With the aim of not allowing the collapse of the unified system of Ukraine's internal affairs bodies, increasing the campaign against crime, and protecting the interests of citizens in the Crimea from criminal infringements, the Ukrainian president issued a decree on 18 May on reorganizing Crimea's internal affairs ministry into the main internal affairs directorate in the Crimea and subordinating it directly to Ukraine's internal affairs minister.

Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, in implementing this decree, introduced the post of deputy internal affairs minister of Ukraine and head of Crimea's main internal affairs directorate, to which Militia Colonel Chernyshov was appointed. He is a Russian born in the Crimea who has worked in the internal affairs bodies for over 20 years—12 of those in the Crimea—in operational posts and as head of the Belogorskiy internal affairs department.

Unfortunately the Crimean Supreme Council and president disregarded the Ukrainian president's decree, appointing that same retired Army General Kuznetsov to the abolished post of Crimean internal affairs minister. Thus a dangerous precedent of disregarding the laws of the Ukrainian state has been created, which is negatively affecting the activity of internal affairs bodies in the Crimea, and above all the state of law and order. The operational subunits, instead of preventing and detecting crimes, have begun to join in implementing functions not intrinsically theirs—the protection of television and radio broadcasting facilities, which will be seized supposedly on an instruction from Kiev.

Things have reached a point where Kuznetsov, to draw publicity to his person, deliberately encourages media speculation of alleged attempts by a thousand-strong detachment from Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry to seize the premises of the reorganized Crimean Internal Affairs Ministry. Meanwhile, only five senior and five rank-and-file employees of the Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry are there now with the sole task of providing practical assistance. Despite the complete absence of any grounds, which was later acknowledged by Kuznetsov himself, the Crimean militia were put on alert and given machine guns. Also surprising was the fact that Kuznetsov ordered to bar from the premises of the interior bodies representatives of the higher office, the Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry.

An explosive situation is being provoked and mounted. Suspicion and mistrust for the Ukrainian authorities is being planted. The collegium of the Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry places all responsibility for the developments in Crimea and possible unforeseen consequences on Kuznetsov and the forces that created conditions for this. As for the actions taken by Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry, those were prompted by concern for our ability to ensure reliable protection of the legitimate interests of citizens and the state from illegal infringement, and strengthen law and order in the Crimea. They by no means were and never will be aimed at restriction of the legitimate power and authority of the Crimean Supreme Council and president.

Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry constantly is and will be providing necessary assistance to Crimean interior bodies within the limits of Ukrainian legislation and taking account of the norms of Crimean laws that do not contradict the said legislation.

We understand the difficult situation in which the Crimean militia personnel is lately forced to work. We are grateful to them for their endurance, staunchness, and ability to preserve calm and prevent themselves from being drawn into dangerous political games. We hope they will maintain a similarly balanced position in the future and preserve the unity of our ranks in the name of our main task, our battle against crime.

We are following the road of building a law-governed state, which is not an easy one. Our joint efforts allowed us to preserve civil peace in complex situations, prevent confrontation, and, moreover, bloodshed. And that is our unchanging stance.

Appealing to the Crimean Supreme Council and president, we are counting on them to exercise foresight, wisdom, and consideration in their decisions concerning issues that relate to the functioning of such an important armed formation as interior bodies. We are expressing confidence that your earlier decisions will be revised. This would contribute to mutual respect and cooperation, as well as preservation of established good traditions.

This statement was adopted at a meeting of the collegium of Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry, the heads of the main internal affairs directorates in Kiev and Kiev Oblast, the internal affairs directorates in oblasts and the town of Sevastopol, and internal affairs directorates in transport on 22 May 1994.

UNA-UNSO Issues Statement on Members' Arrest

LD2205183094 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 22 May 94

[No video available]

[Text] The Ukrainian National Assembly [UNA] has issued a statement that says, in particular: "While none of the Crimean separatists have been made liable for violating Ukrainian laws, attempting to separate the Ukrainian lands and kindling interethnic enmity, some Ukrainian patriots are in prison." The statement points to a repeated arrest of Valeriy Bobrovych, a leading member of the UNSO [Ukrainian National Self-Defense—the paramilitary wing of the UNA] territorial command in Lvov, who had arrived in Kiev for an operation after sustaining an injury in Abkhazia.

Ukrainian Parties Form Crimea's 'Shadow Parliament'

LD2205213694 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2030 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Simferopol, 22 May—The autonomy's Ukrainian parties held a meeting at the officers' house. The meeting established Crimea's shadow parliament, the Civic Council of Crimea. The parliament is elected from 66 constituencies according to the majoritarian system: groups of citizens who support Ukraine's statehood and territorial integrity nominate candidates from parties of the same political stand.

It is planned that the parliament will have 98 seats divided between parties. The following parties will nominate candidates to the parliament: the Crimean branch of the Ukrainian Republican Party, the Democratic Party of Ukraine, the Crimean branch of the People's Movement of Ukraine [Rukh], the All-Crimean Prosvita Society, the Society of Teachers and Educators, the

Crimean branch of the Ukrainian National Assembly, the Ukrainian Civic Congress of Crimea, the Vasyl Stus Memorial Society, and the Organization of the Crimean-Tatar National Movement. The newly established parliament, the meeting said, is not pro-Ukrainian by nature. It is a multiethnic parliament that supports Ukrainian statehood.

According to the approved program documents, the Civic Council of Crimea is a representative body of Crimean residents who regard themselves as citizens of Ukraine and do not recognize independent Crimean statehood. The participants of the meeting approved the principles according to which the shadow parliament is formed. The parliament aims to help the deputies of the Ukrainian and Crimean parliaments work out legislation, conduct expert appraisal of Crimean laws, and their accordance with the Ukrainian constitution.

Government Sends Troops to Crimea; Local Militia on Alert

LD2305045694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0416 GMT 23 May 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol, 23 May (TASS)—The Crimean militia has been ordered to stay in the barracks in connection with the latest developments on the peninsula, particularly the Ukrainian national guard's preparations for action. The number of the national guards in Simferopol has increased by more than five times lately to reach 2,000 men.

According to the Crimean Minister of Internal Affairs Valeriy Kuznetsov, the situation in the Republic is under control and the law enforcement agencies are taking tough measures to maintain public order.

Kuznetsov rejected the statement of the press service of the Ukrainian Interior Ministry, which alleged that the former Interior Ministry Aleksandr Plyuta had been unlawfully dismissed from his post and the criminal situation in the Crimea has aggravated as a result.

Valeriy Kuznetsov stressed that Plyuta had tendered his resignation himself, asking not to be considered for a post in the new Crimean Government. The parliament met his request.

Rail Official: No Orders for Military Transport to Crimea

WS2305094394 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] In connection with Russian mass media reports about repositioning of the Ukrainian military units and formations in the direction of the Crimean Autonomous Republic, the Ukrainian Railroads press service issued a statement. Among others, the statement said that over the past 10 days, it received no orders for transporting military loads, personnel, and military equipment in the direction of the Crimea from the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and National Guards.

Crimean Advisor Reports More Ukrainian Troop Movements

LD2305090394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] The 29 Ukrainian Army armored personnel carriers that arrived in Simferopol have been distributed around various parts of the city, a RIA correspondent learned this morning from (Petr Chernyekhevich), the Crimean president's advisor on military affairs. He said that a group from the Ukrainian Internal Affairs Ministry made yet another attempt to enter the Crimean Internal Affairs Ministry premises. Their minister issued an instruction appointing them to various top posts in place of their Crimean counterparts. Guards at the building prevented this, however. Law enforcement staff report from the grassroots that they intend to fulfill only the instructions of Valeriy Kuznetsov, Crimea's internal affairs minister.

It also became known today that Major-General Stepanov, deputy commander of the Odessa District, accompanied by 50 staff officers, is arriving in Crimea. They will inspect the Ukrainian 52d Army Corps, which is garrisoned on the peninsula.

A delegation of the Ukrainian Supreme Council is expected to arrive in Crimea.

Petr Chernyekhevich confirmed that all vital facilities in Simferopol are under reinforced guard. Crimean Cossacks are carrying out guard duties alongside militiamen, on a voluntary basis.

Ukraine Premier Leaves for Moscow; Accords To Be Signed

LD2305110194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1053 GMT 23 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev 23 May TASS—Acting Ukrainian Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskiy left for Moscow on Monday [23 May] to meet his Russian counterpart Viktor Chernomyrdin and discuss the Crimean crisis and Russian-Ukrainian relations.

It became known to tass that it is planned to draft a package of agreements to be later signed by presidents of Russia and Ukraine.

The meeting between the prime ministers was agreed upon in a telephone conversation of Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk on 19 May.

Kiev: Crimea To Remain Part of Ukraine

LD2305113694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1122 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Kiev 23 May TASS—A high-ranking representative in the administration of Leonid Kravchuk told TASS that Kiev possesses information that during Moscow talks "Russia will abide by international norms and principles." He also said that "Kiev will not allow any changes in the status of the Crimea as an integral part of Ukraine."

Before his departure Zvyahilskiy had a meeting with President Leonid Kravchuk. No details have been disclosed, but it can be assumed that the meeting specified the Ukrainian position at Moscow talks.

According to some statements in the top echelons of Ukrainian authority, Kiev is not going to sidetrack from its principles of ensuring the territorial integrity of the country and will adopt corresponding measures in the framework of constitutional norms.

Crimean Deputies Seek 'Consultative Goals' in Kiev Talks

LD2305145594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] At negotiations with Ukrainian legislators in Kiev on May 24 Crimean lawmakers will pursue exclusively "consultative goals," a Ukrainian parliament spokesman reported to INTERFAX on Monday [23 May].

Simferopol believes that a solution to Crimea's economic problems largely depends on compliance with the Ukrainian President's decree "On an Open Economy Regime in Crimea." The spokesman noted that disregard for the decree was one of the economic reasons why the law on the restoration of the constitutional basis of Crimea as a state had been passed on 20 May.

As Interfax has learned, at a meeting Sunday morning Crimean legislators considered what actions Ukraine was likely to take if no agreement were reached. It was suggested that Kiev might resort to an economic blockade or supply commodities to Crimea only at world prices.

In such an event, Crimean lawmakers proposed charging for the lease of land by Ukrainian armed forces and the Black Sea Fleet at world levels. According to their estimates, payment at world prices for the 50,000 hectares of land occupied by the Ukrainian army, and for the 52,000 hectares of land held by the Black Sea Fleet "will surpass expenditures for electricity and water from Ukraine."

"The Crimean delegation is going to Kiev with such an approach. At its evening conference, only concrete proposals will be made," the spokesman said.

Nationalists Said Massing in Lvov for Dispatch to Crimea

LD2305151594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] As of 20 May in Lvov (West Ukraine), Ukrainian nationalists have been manning groups of volunteers to be subsequently dispatched to Crimea, a Ukrainian lawmaker Oleg Vitovich, in charge of the Lvov branch of the Ukrainian National Self-Defense Assembly, has told INTERFAX.

Asked about the goals of these groups, he disclosed that they "will advocate national independence and territorial integrity for Ukraine."

By his estimates, more than 200 men have volunteered to be sent to Crimea.

Deputies Consider 'Representative' Role for President

LD2005155594 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1150 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Kiev—On 20 May, statements were circulated from the Statehood and Center groups at the beginning of the plenary session of the Supreme Council of Ukraine. The statement from the Center group contains, in particular, proposals to support Vasyl Durdynet's candidacy for the post of first deputy chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council and to "halt the diktat of the left-wing forces" having agreed the candidacies of deputy chairmen of the parliament and heads of committees.

A discussion emerged with regard to the name "committee" instead of "commission" as it was in the previous parliament and also with regard to leaders of groups and chairmen of committees becoming members of the presidium of the Supreme Council. In the view of Oleksandr Moroz the presence of 18-20 leaders of groups and the same number of chairman of committees could cause the presidium to become rudderless. Vyacheslav Chornovil, while expressing disagreement with the speaker's point of view gave assurances that since in the event of an emergence of disputed issues conciliatory commissions will nevertheless have to be formed each time, their role could be played namely by members of the presidium.

Deputies were given an anonymous draft constitution of Ukraine in accordance with which it was proposed to give the president only representative functions and the Cabinet of Ministers should be led by a prime minister. In the words of Oleksandr Moroz, this draft had been agreed by Leonid Kravchuk. "We are talking not about a constitutional conspiracy, as People's Deputy Bohdan Boyko considers, but about introducing elementary order into the executive structures," assured Oleksandr Moroz.

Commenting on this provision of the draft constitution, acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy told a

UNIAN correspondent that in a "state with a population of 52 million, a powerful industry, a military industrial complex and an agricultural economy the government should be subordinate to the president."

After this, parliamentary speaker Oleksandr Moroz proposed that all groups gather in order to agree the issues that were mentioned at the beginning of this item (minus guests and representatives of the media).

Deputy Prime Minister Landyk Submits Resignation

LD2005140194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1150 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Kiev—On 20 May in an interview with a UNIAN correspondent, Valentyn Landyk, deputy prime minister of Ukraine and people's deputy, announced he had written a statement today requesting that his resignation as deputy prime minister of Ukraine be accepted in connection with his election as people's deputy. He sent the letter to Ukraine's president. He said: "I have decided to work in parliament and no longer wish to take the blame."

In his opinion, next week Leonid Kravchuk will probably propose a candidate for the post of prime minister of Ukraine for parliamentary approval.

Vice Premier Submits Resignation to Kravchuk

LD2005191094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1639 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Ukrainian Vice Premier on Foreign Economic Activities Valentin Landik told INTERFAX-Ukraine that he had applied to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk for resignation today in the morning. Landik stressed that he had made this decision in order to conform with the law, which does not permit Supreme Soviet deputies to work in a government department.

Commenting on the results of his activities in the government, Landik stated that Ukraine's foreign trade balance had been significantly improved and its export had increased several times. "We must stimulate export and limit import by all means. We can do without Snickers. We need import for our industry," he said.

Disagreement Over Deputy Speaker Election Halts Parliament

LD2005105994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1930 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Kiev—On 19 May at the evening session of Ukraine's Supreme Council after Oleksandr Moroz's insistence to register, only 198 people's deputies agreed to do so and this prevented the session from opening. As Vyacheslav Chornovil, head of the Rukh deputies' group explained, members of the Rukh, Reform, Statehood, and some deputies from the Center group decided to refrain from registering following a joint meeting of group leaders under the chairmanship of Oleksandr Moroz. Vyacheslav Chornovil said that Petro Symonenko (from the Communists of Ukraine in support of social justice and democracy group), Serhiy Dovhan (Agrarians of Ukraine group), and a representative from the Center group, said that Oleksandr Tkachenko, one of the leaders of the Agrarian group and former agriculture minister, was a realistic candidate for the post of deputy speaker of the parliament.

The national democrats made a final decision to block the work of the session after Oleksandr Moroz said Vasyl Durdynets had no chances of becoming first deputy speaker and this was why he was supporting Oleksandr Tkachenko's candidacy. At a meeting of the Rukh group, held in the chamber immediately after the registration, the view was expressed that a tough position with regard to the communist majority must continue to be maintained. The start of a campaign to gather 112 signatures to recall Oleksandr Moroz, speaker of the Supreme Council, was also not excluded.

Nationalist Leader Protests Security Service 'Surveillance'

AU2005110494 Kiev NARODNA HAZETA in Ukrainian No. 21 (152) May 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Ukraine's Security Service Against Ukraine's State Independence?"]

[Text] Head of the political association "Ukraine's State Independence" [DSU] Roman Koval turned to head of Ukraine's Security Service Ye. Marchuk with an open letter. Mr. Koval asserts that, despite the fact that his organization has been registered by the Ministry of Justice, officials of Ukraine's Security Service are closely "watching" DSU members: They exert political pressure upon them, try to recruit them, and conduct surveillance.

Therefore, in R. Koval's opinion, Ukraine's Security Service, in fact, drives the organization headed by him to embark upon the road of illegal activity and extraparliamentary struggle for Ukrainian independence. Mr. Koval calls upon General Marchuk to stop secret surveillance over DSU members or, otherwise, they will have to turn to judicial bodies and sue Ukraine's Security Service. However, if Ukraine's Security Service opts to work for Ukraine, the DSU chairman promises it his organization's assistance.

Kravchuk Comments on Market Reformation Conference

LD2205163394 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2030 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Kiev, 21 May—President Kravchuk met the participants in the international conference "Society During Transitional Period: Experience of Market Reformation for Ukraine" under way in Kiev. The president, in particular, made the following remark: "The opinions expressed at the conference will not be implemented instantly; however, such undertakings are held with the purpose of giving us an opportunity to acquaint ourselves visually with the experience of other countries that had problems similar to those facing Ukraine."

Saburov on Economic Agreement With Russia

944K1255A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 May 94 p 1

[Interview with Yevgeniy Saburov, deputy prime minister of the Crimean Government, by KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent I. Dyakov; place and date not given; under the rubric "Exclusive Interview": "Yevgeniy Saburov: Agreement With Russia Signed"]

[Text] **Negotiations were held between government delegations of Russia and Crimea in Moscow. On returning to Simferopol from the Russian capital, Ye.F. Saburov, deputy prime minister of the Crimean Government, answered our correspondent's questions.**

[Dyakov] Yevgeniy Fedorovich, what news did you bring from Moscow?

[Saburov] As a result of the just-completed negotiations, the parties signed a Russian-Crimean framework intergovernmental trade and economic agreement. This document defines the boundaries within which Russia and Crimea undertake to develop mutually profitable business relations. We speak here of trade and economic ties. We will create the most favorable conditions for entities engaged in economic activities.

Within the framework of this agreement, agencies and enterprises will be able to enter into economic contracts between themselves. This will lead to an expansion of Russian-Crimean trade. For us, relations with our Russian partners are very important. Thanks to a strengthening of these ties, we will be able to speed up the implementation of economic reforms.

[Dyakov] But the ties also existed in the past. Why was it necessary to formalize them in an agreement?

[Saburov] It is true that Crimea is linked with Russia by a myriad invisible threads. After the disintegration of the Soviet Union, however, economic relations became more complicated. A new and rather difficult situation emerged. Customs and other artificial barriers arose between Crimea and Russia. Simply talking about removing these barriers cannot solve the problem. Thanks to these agreements, relations with Russia have been elevated to a new, higher level. The two governments undertook an obligation to facilitate the expansion of cooperation in every way.

[Dyakov] Apparently, the framework agreement is to be followed by concrete steps in bringing Crimea and Russia closer together in the economic sense, is it not?

[Saburov] Some steps already have been taken to fill the outlined framework with concrete content. For instance, Russia had a limit on how much cash could be taken out of the country, including to Crimea. It was set at 500,000 rubles [R]. Too little for vacationers at current prices. Now this amount has been increased to R1.4 million. This is extremely important for Crimea. In the summer we expect millions of Russians to come and vacation here. They will be able to spend their pocket money—the R1.4 million—on our goods and services. The Crimean budget will get an infusion. In short, the benefit is obvious.

In addition, the Russian Government made the decision to subsidize vouchers to Crimean resorts. The corresponding expenses will be carried by insurance funds and trade unions. Thanks to this, our sanitariums, room-and-board facilities, and recreation homes will not be empty...

[Dyakov] How will the agreement affect the development of Crimean industry?

[Saburov] Most tangibly. We will define the volume of Crimean products to be shipped to Russia with reduced customs formalities. We have conducted negotiations on the issues of transportation and communications. Russian Government leaders treated with understanding our difficulties and requests. We count on the closest cooperation with our partners in the brotherly country.

[Dyakov] Who conducted the negotiations on the Russian side?

[Saburov] The head of government, V.S. Chernomyrdin. At the signing of the agreement he emphasized that nothing now stands in the way of concrete contracts between Russian and Crimean enterprises. He urged an intensification of this work, bringing into its orbit broad circles of interested parties. The agreement was signed by Russia's Deputy Prime Minister S.M. Shakhray and myself.

[Dyakov] Were these long negotiations?

[Saburov] They began under the previous Crimean leadership, but at some stage ground to a halt. Now we have been able to bring them to a successful conclusion.

[Dyakov] When may the results of the negotiations have an effect in overcoming the economic crisis in Crimea?

[Saburov] Unfortunately, not right away. The economy has a very strong inertia. But there will definitely be positive results. Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin suggested, for instance, that we start thinking now of Crimea's preparations for the winter and the fuel and energy supply. We are supposed to sign contracts for exports of our products to Russia, which should give a boost to our industrial production.

[Dyakov] For many Crimean enterprises, as well as Russian ones, the problem of mutual nonpayments is practically unsurmountable. Have you been able to resolve it?

[Saburov] We touched upon this issue in the course of negotiations. We resolved to clear financial channels between Russian and Crimean enterprises. Then mutual payments for products shipped will flow through them unimpeded. We will keep under supervision the implementation of concrete measures in this respect. This is what we agreed on with the Russians. In short, we see this agreement as a door that has opened between Russia and Crimea. I am confident that it will always remain open.

Analyst Claims Defense Industry Conversion Not Progressing

AU1905084294 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 17 May 94 p 1

[Article by Volodymyr Oliynyk: "Rumors About Conversion Are Considerably Exaggerated"]

[Text] The production of military technology and weapons has decreased several times over, rather than by a civilized number of percent. For example, whereas, earlier, any defense-industry plant in Ukraine manufactured 70 or 80 percent of military products, it presently only manufactures about 10 percent of them, without producing any civilian products instead. Is it now possible to say that conversion is in progress in Ukraine? Experts believe that one can now talk of a different thing—the decline and collapse of the previously mighty and science-intensive branch of machine building and the military-industrial complex.

It does not take a prophet to point out once again that the problem of conversion in Ukraine is extremely important. Ukraine is the second most powerful representative of the former Union's military-industrial complex after Russia. There are, in Ukraine, 800 ship-, tank-, and aircraft-building plants that used to be constituent parts of the might of the former USSR. Ukraine tried to convert the military-industrial complex and machine building. Why tried? Because the state program is based upon a program-oriented principle and was elaborated for 400 enterprises. Precisely this program envisaged the transition of their work to satisfy civilian needs and a decrease in military production. Regarding the former, that is to say, the cessation of the manufacture of military products, it has, indeed, taken place. However, not in accordance with a systematic program, but as a result of a spontaneous reduction in the production of military technology and weapons. Production has been reduced severalfold.

The reason for this is, primarily, the fact that the Russians used to be customers of Ukrainian plants, but, presently, they are creating their own industries. The second reason is the extremely low wages of workers in the machine building and military-industrial complexes, averaging between 600,000 and 800,000 karbovantsi [K] a month. What actually took place there was not conversion, since, as a result, we have empty production shops, workers who have not been retrained, the unprocessed technological specifications, and the loss of production potential.

The state program was developed in 1991-92. If one can put it this way, it took place in a different state. At that time, Ukraine's financial situation was different, there were different reserves and resources, and the rate of inflation was not so unrestrained. If you remember, the collapse occurred at the beginning of 1994, and all calculations of the state program were eaten up by inflation.

Nor are Western investors in any hurry to come to Ukraine. Despite the fact that both Germany and the United States showed an interest in investing in Ukrainian conversion. Nothing went beyond talk and intentions, even though the Ukrainian Government did try to attract Western capital by its conversion projects. The reason is simple and banal: Money may only be given for private industries, whereas the entire defense industry is state-controlled. There is still no money and nor is there the sum of $40 million that was recently promised by Americans. If this money is granted to Ukraine in the near future, almost half of it will go for remunerating the labor of U.S. specialists and experts. By way of comparison, I will quote the following figure: Experts have estimated that at least tens of billions of U.S. dollars may be needed for the renovation and conversion of Ukrainian defense capacities.

Having appraised the situation, Western investors were, frankly speaking, pleased with such a state of affairs. First and foremost, they got rid of a powerful competitor in weapons production on the world market, and that is why the firms of the United States, France, Germany, and Sweden presently reign there. The West no longer fears the capacity of Ukraine's defense plants, which live from hand to mouth. Finally, Ukraine, having reduced, by tens of times, its manufacture of weapons and military products, has not proceeded to manufacturing competitive civilian products. This means that, in the next few years, we will not, so to speak, present any hazard on the world market of modern civilian products.

There also arises the following question: If the state is so poor, why doesn't the government make use of private capital for implementing conversion. This capital in Ukraine is not very mighty, but it does exist. I mean the capital of between $5 billion and $7 billion that has been taken abroad since the establishment of independence and that works for the Western economy. The reason is that, however painful it may be to admit, Ukraine and its state apparatus still remain successors to the Ukrainian SSR. Everything proceeds by the inertia of the former Council of Ministers, as the people there have remained the same with the same mentality.

Even though not a single statesman will specify the country's losses due to the collapse of the military-production potential, in accordance with rough estimates by experts, Ukraine has already lost several billion

U.S. dollars in pure income, not to mention the fact that, with a true conversion, we would have preserved the scientific and production base and potential worth tens of billions of U.S. dollars. The aircraft- and tank-building industries have been particularly affected, as well as plants and enterprises manufacturing radio equipment.

It goes without saying that all of this is not only due to foot dragging or poor economic management, but this does not make things easier.

Ministry Data Shows Over 90,000 Chernobyl-Related Deaths

LD2005163694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1150 GMT 20 May 94

[Excerpts] Kiev—A joint sitting was held on 19 May by the Council of Chernobyl Town, Kiev City and Oblast Invalids, and representatives of the Ukrainian Health Protection Ministry, Ukraine's Ministry for the Protection of the Population from the Aftermath of the Chernobyl AES accident [MinChernobyl], Kiev city and oblast health protection directorates, Kiev's radiational medicine centers, Ukraine's radiational medicine scientific center, and the capital's state administration. [passage omitted]

Talking with correspondents, Valeriy Kyrkorov, chairman of the Council of Chernobyl Town, Kiev City and Oblast Invalids, made public the following data from the Ukrainian Health Protection Ministry: The total number of deaths among those who suffered as a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe between 1988 and 1993 is in excess of 90,000, while the number of deaths among the clear-up staff in the same period has already reached almost 4,000. The conclusion made by interdepartmental expert councils is that since 1993 alone a total of 805 (60 percent) liquidators' deaths have been linked to the effects of the accident.

Belarus

Premier Sees Permanent Economic Union With Russia, Ukraine

PM2005102394 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 20 May 94 p 1

[BELINFORM-TASS report: "Will the Ruble Come to Belorussia?"]

[Text] Whether the Treaty on Monetary Union with Russia goes ahead or not now depends on the results of Belorussia's [Belarus'] presidential election, Vyacheslav Kebich, chairman of the Republic's Council of Ministers, told a public meeting in Grodno Oblast.

He also stressed that "this is not so much monetary union as economic union, and it is being signed not for two or three months but for centuries to come. I am confident that this union will go ahead, just as I am confident that Ukraine will also join it." According to the prime minister, in the near future Tajikistan will also state that it is joining the economic union.

'Sources' on Kebich-Chernomyrdin Meeting, Monetary Merger

LD2005203194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 20 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 96 (586): Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The prime ministers of Belarus and Russia, Vyacheslav Kebich and Viktor Chernomyrdin, on Thursday met in Moscow to discuss the implementation of the two countries' monetary union treaty.

Kebich said after the meeting, held behind closed doors, that he had asked Chernomyrdin to speed up the provision of a loan Russia had promised to Belarus. "The prime minister of the Russian Federation promised assistance in this matter," Kebich said.

Sources in the Belarusian delegation told Interfax that Kebich, in explaining his request for an earlier arrival of the 200-billion-ruble loan, said that lack of cash forces many of Belarus's enterprises to delay the payment of wages to their workers.

At the same time, the Belarusian delegation said it realized that Russia was unable to give Belarus or any other member of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) any loans without approval by parliament. The Belarusians also mentioned that a Russian 1994 national budget the draft of which the legislature has passed at the first reading would limit Russia's total loans to other CIS countries to 185 billion rubles.

The above-mentioned sources in the Belarusian delegation said the Russian government had assured Belarus that it would do its best to provide the loan earlier but had given no specific dates.

Kebich said that "today it is extremely important not only to carry through the unification of the monetary systems of Belarus and Russia but also to find ways of forming a political and economic union of the Slav states." Talking to reporters, he said that such a union might subsequently be joined by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and other CIS countries. In his view, the union member states need not have a single currency, namely the Russian ruble."Setting up an interstate bank would be enough to solve (their) economic problems," he said.

Kebich said disagreements between Belarus and Russia over the status of the National Bank of Belarus (NBB) remain an obstacle to the materialization of the two countries' monetary union. The Russian Finance Ministry wants the NBB to be a branch of the Central Bank of Russia, which, Kebich said, Belarus cannot accept.

He also believes the exchange of Belarusian rubles for Russian ones by bank transfer could be done at a rate of four or five Belarussian rubles to one Russian ruble. He said the rate was based on the cost of consumer goods in the two countries, he said.

In the meantime, NBB chief Stanislav Bogdankevich called the conditions made by Russia at the second round of monetary union talks unacceptable. He told a news conference in Minsk that he was against Belarus and Russia having a single budget. As for Russia's offer to provide credits to close Belarus's budget deficits, he described that as "totally unacceptable." Apart from that, Bogdankevich still considers Article 5 of the monetary union treaty unconstitutional. "I did not initial that fundamental article, which provides for what is effective abolition of the National Bank of Belarus," he said. "Therefore the document is no more than a letter of intent." "The treaty cannot be signed on those terms. Negotiations are needed to take us back to our mutually advantageous positions," he said.

Kebich's spokesman Vladimir Zametalin said the prime minister considered it his moral duty to carry through the work he had begun two years ago despite any pressure or resistance to Belarus's union with Russia. "What is today needed for real unification are not declarations or promises but persistent practical measures," Zametalin quoted Kebich as saying.

National Bank Chairman Opposes Monetary Union

MK2105095494 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 21 May 94 p 3

[Report by Konstantin Smirnov under the "Ruble Zone" rubric: "What Is Healthy for a Prime Minister, Is Deadly for a Banker"]

[Text] In Belorussia [Belarus], the struggle has heightened in the top echelons over the Republic's joining the ruble zone. The Russian and Belorussian prime ministers, Viktor Chernomyrdin and Vyacheslav Kebich, have agreed in Moscow to step up Belorussia's "ruble Anschluss," while Stanislav Bogdankevich, Belorussian National Bank chairman, told a briefing in Minsk yesterday that the bilateral treaty on the unification of money systems was "stillborn."

The clash between the prime minister and Belorussia's chief banker over the republic's "rublization" cannot be called a sensation. While Vyacheslav Kebich, as a high-ranking Minsk official put it, is ready "to lie under a roller" for the sake of the Republic's joining the Russian Central Bank's zone of responsibility, Bogdankevich has always been skeptical about attempts to solve Belorussia's monetary problems at the expense of the Russian ruble (which has been an open secret for all). In particular, a bill on the introduction of a national currency, drawn up at the Belorussian National Bank, has been sitting at the Belorussian parliament for nearly a year now. It is symptomatic, however, that the National Bank chairman has for the first time made public his flatly negative attitude to a ruble union with Russia.

Stanislav Bogdankevich's demarche may be attributed at least to two reasons: the corporate and the national ones. First, Belorussia's "ruble Anschluss" is possible only by lowering the status of the Belorussian National Bank to a branch of the Russian Central Bank, which will remain the sole money creation center of the two states. If Belorussia opts for its own currency, however, and summons up the courage to launch economic reform, the role of its National Bank in shaping its economic policy is bound to grow. Hence, a clear conclusion for Bogdankevich—it is better to be a Belorussian Gerashchenko than an assistant of Gerashchenko from Moscow.

Second, Bogdankevich's statement that the ruble union with Russia is unwelcome may boost the presidential bids of Vyacheslav Kebich's rivals, primarily former Belorussian parliament speaker Stanislav Shushkevich, who hold a negative view on the Republic's accession to the ruble zone.

To all appearances, the Russian Government will not react officially to Stanislav Bogdankevich's latest statement. However, if in the end the currency unification of Russia and Belorussia fails to materialize, benefits granted to Belorussia, first of all the lifting of Russian export tariffs on commodities destined for the Republic starting 1 May, may be cancelled.

Impact of State Bodies on Presidential Race Viewed

WS2005141994 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 18 May 94 p 1

[Report by Syarhey Plytkevich: "State Power Is Means of Winning Post of President"]

[Text] We have learned the preliminary data regarding the number of signatures collected in cities and rayons in support of the main candidates for president of Belarus. These figures are of particular interest, and provide reasons for pondering this issue.

Thus, Belarusian Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich received more supporting signatures than his rivals. He was supported not only by 203 deputies, but also by 400,000 Belarusian voters. These are impressive results, however, they can be explained if we consider that state officers were actively participating in this signature campaign. We have evidence of all these facts, therefore, it is ridiculous to cite any of them. Our editorial office as well as the editorial offices of other newspapers, and the Civilian Election Committee have such evidence. By the way, when we queried Alyaksandr Abramovich, chairman of the Central Commission for Holding Presidential Elections, he admitted that state bodies participate in election battles.

However, a question arises: Is this good or bad? Can state bodies be really depoliticized and perform only the so-called function of social management? There are various opinions on this point. State bodies in states with the old democratic traditions are to a certain degree affected by a ruling party. Thus, what can be said about the states that are, in fact, shifting from one political system to another? The role of state bodies in these countries is continually increasing. The results of the first stage of a presidential race in Belarus demonstrate this very vividly. Belarusian Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich, for whom the entire state system worked, collected a majority of votes. This could not be otherwise: Any other presidential candidate constitutes a certain threat to many employees of the Cabinet of Ministers, the oblast and rayon executive committees.

Earlier we wrote that only Supreme Soviet Chairman Myacheslaw Hryb could change this situation by entering the campaign. In this case, the officers of state bodies would have to choose between him and Kebich. However, Myacheslaw Ivanavich did not risk taking this step. So, state officers could do nothing but work for Kebich. Only Molodechno became an interesting and peculiar exception. You know that Molodechno Major Henadz Karpenko is also a candidate for president. Therefore, the Molodechno Executive Committee did not work for Kebich. The result is very strange: Prime Minister Vyachaslaw Kebich has no supporters (zero!) there at all. This is a vivid example of the role of state bodies in political battles!

By the way, the same refers to the role of powerful party structures. For example, the Belarusian Popular Front [BNF], which has devoted supporters in many cities and rayons of Belarus, managed to collect over 230,000 signatures during the signature campaign. The Party of Communists of Belarus [PKB] was also characterized by good organization: They collected some 200,000 signatures in support of Vasil Novikaw, secretary of the PKB

Central Committee. Other candidates, who were supported by small or secondary parties, or by nonstable allies, had more difficulties. For example, the number of signatures in support of Henadz Karpenko was slightly over 100,000. If he did not have a list with 79 deputies' signatures, he would have been very upset now. It is clear that many difficulties are awaiting the candidates. However, we should realize that only a candidate, who is able to win in an honest battle, could become a proper president of the state. His rivals will have to take him into consideration. However, if the presidential battle is manipulative, when the Central Committee for Holding Presidential Elections comes under someone's influence and winks at law violations, then elections of such a president will only increase antagonism in the Republic. This situation could trigger a social explosion.

Military Talks on Cooperation With Russia End in Minsk

WS2305094294 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1400 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] A two-day working meeting of Russian and Belarusian military delegations has ended in Minsk. The delegations prepared agreements on bilateral cooperation. In particular, they discussed procedures for financing military formations of strategic forces, which are temporarily deployed on Belarusian territory, as well as those for using Russia's firing ranges by formations and units of the Belarusian Air Defense. The Russian delegation was headed by Ambassador at Large Veniyamin Popov, while its military section was headed by Colonel General Gennadiy Gichkin, deputy chief of the General Staff of Russia's Armed Forces. The Belarusian delegation was headed by Lieutenant General Mikalay Churkin, chief of the General Staff of the Belarusian Armed Forces.

Military Counterintelligence Performance Viewed at Meeting

WS2005083794 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] A meeting has been held at the Military Counterintelligence Administration, during which the participation of this service in events carried out in the Belarusian Armed Forces was discussed. According to the Belarusian Defense Ministry press center, particular attention was attached to qualitatively new conditions for performing counterintelligence functions concerning defense of the Army, detecting agents of foreign special services, protection of military state secrets under conditions of practically unlimited openness, and some other issues.

Military Talks in Lithuania Deemed 'Normal Dialogue'

WS2305093194 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1300 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] As we have already informed, a Belarusian military delegation headed by Defense Minister Pavel Kazlowski paid a one-day working visit to Lithuania on 19 May. The delegation held meetings with Seimas [parliament] Chairman C. Jursenas and Defense Minister L. Linkevicius. According to our correspondent in Vilnius, it was resolved to create working groups of both states for preparing documents on cooperation between the Lithuanian and Belarusian Ministries of Defense. During the news conference, held at the Lithuanian Seimas at the end of the visit, L. Linkevicius stated that the meeting with P. Kazlowski was devoted to issues related to the formation of a structure of both states' defense systems and other common problems. "Notwithstanding the fact that Belarus participates in the CIS collective system of security, there were no barriers to a normal dialogue," Linkevicius said.

Moldova

Snegur Denies Deterioration in Ties With Romania

AU2005202994 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 20 May 94

[Dispatch from Chisinau]

[Text] Mr. Mircea Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova, denied that relations between the Republic of Moldova and Romania have cooled down of late. In an interview granted to Radio Free Europe, he said that this idea, which is being intensively aired, does not correspond with reality. We will squash this idea very soon, President Snegur said.

Positively assessing the post-electoral social and political situation in the Republic of Moldova, he said that it enabled the country's leadership to start a dialogue with the Tiraspol authorities. Referring to the issue of granting a special status to the rayons on the left bank of the Dniester River, President Snegur said that a possible draft bill in this respect will take into consideration a decentralization and the assignment of functions to local self-administration bodies, but within the framework of a single state, the Republic of Moldova, with a single constitution and foreign policy and a single Army and police force. Mircea Snegur said that the negotiations will be difficult, because the Dniester side insists upon the idea of federalization or confederalization. He also emphasized the need to solve all differences by political means.

At the same time, President Snegur reiterated that the withdrawal of the 14th Army of the Russian Federation from the territory of the Republic of Moldova should not be synchronized with the granting of a special legal status to the rayons on the left bank of the Dniester.

In the aforementioned interview, President Mircea Snegur reiterated that, within the CIS bodies, the leadership of the Republic of Moldova only participates in the discussion of economic problems and does not participate in the discussion of military issues.

Concessions Decided in Talks on Russian Withdrawal

MK2105085994 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 May 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric]

[Text] The Russian-Moldovan talks on the status and pullout of the 14th Russian Army called for mid-May have been moved back. There are substantial changes in the composition of the Moldovan delegation, primarily connected with the resignation of its head, Anatoliy Taranu, extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the Republic of Moldova to Russia. He is supposed to be replaced by Nicolae Osmochescu, deputy foreign minister of the Republic of Moldova and international law specialist, who has been asked to lead a group of experts from Chisinau at the talks with Tiraspol.

The Moldovan delegation decided to make some concessions in the latest round of talks. Backing down on its previous demand that the Army be withdrawn by 1 July 1994, it suggested that the withdrawal be carried through during one or two years. In the opinion of Anatoliy Tiranu, it is not ruled out that Moldova could decide on even greater concessions: from approving a longer duration of the Army's stay on its territory to assigning it the status of a military base.

Secret Document Reveals Plans To Establish Russian Enclave

AU2005110794 Kiev NARODNA HAZETA in Ukrainian No. 21 (152) May 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "We Will Have a Dangerous Neighbor"]

[Text] The Press Service of the organization "Ukraine's State Independence" has got hold of a document under the title "A Special Status for the Dniester Region (Considerations on Possible Legal Foundations)," which had been compiled by a "plenipotentiary representative of the president of the Russian Federation to the negotiations on the political settlement of the conflict in the Moldovan Republic's Dniester Region." Russia proposes that "a special status" for the Dniester Region be established by means of which Russia could actively influence Moldova's domestic and external policy. In accordance with the document handed over to the Moldovan side for consideration, the elected legislative body of the Dniester Region "may suspend the action on its territory of laws and normative acts of the Moldovan Republic, if they are at variance with the special status...." (Section 7). Thus, a foreign state grants a regular administrative region of sovereign Moldova the status of a fully autonomous enclave. The 10 sections of the Russian project are aimed at creating a separate state, which will be Moscow's vassal.

Kazakhstan

Government Initials Partnership Agreement With EU

LD2005221094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1932 GMT 20 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Brussels, 20 May—Kazakhstan is the second CIS state—following Ukraine—to have finished drawing up an agreement on partnership and cooperation with the European Union. This document was initialled in Brussels on Friday [20 May]. The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned in the Kazakhstan embassy that the agreement will be signed by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan and the European Commission chairman in the coming months.

The agreement represents a political document encompassing diverse forms of cooperation. It lays the basis for development of relations between Kazakhstan and the European Union and is designed to promote the expansion of bilateral cooperation between this Central Asian republic and each of the 12 countries of the European Union. This is essentially the first agreement between independent Kazakhstan and such a major international association as the European Union.

Two more joint documents are now being drawn up to regulate relations between the sides in individual spheres of cooperation, and in particular, in issues relating to power engineering and nuclear materials.

Investment, Trade Agreements Signed With Switzerland

LD2005123794 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1535 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] [No dateline as received] Franz Blankart, state secretary of the Swiss federal department of national economy, speaking at a news conference in Bern about the outcome of his visit to Almaty, described Kazakhstan as "a fascinating country." During his visit agreements on capital investment and trade were signed. He welcomed the development of bilateral ties. He said that Kazakhstan "offers a promising future for foreign investments."

Kazakhstan currently buys from Switzerland technology and products of the chemical and some industries worth 20 million Swiss francs. For its part Switzerland annually buys Kazakh products worth 4.3 million Swiss francs.

According to the SWISS TELEGRAPH AGENCY, during his visit Mr. Blankart signed an agreement on the promotion and protection of investments and on trade and economic cooperation. Switzerland can invest in environmental protection and railroad development in Kazakhstan, with attention being paid to the project for constructing a railroad from Turkey to China.

Almaty To Charge Russia $480 Million Yearly for Baykonur

LD2005185194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1639 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] A top Russian Space Agency official has told INTERFAX that Kazakhstan had, in his view, been taking liberties if its interpretation of the agreement on the main principles and conditions of the use of the Baykonur launch site signed between Boris Yeltsin and Nursultan Nazarbayev on 28 March was anything to go by.

The Moscow agreement fixed Russia's annual payments to Kazakhstan for the lease of Baykonur at 115 million U.S. dollars to include space facilities and associated services.

However a Kazakhstan governmental team said Thursday [19 May] it had prepared a draft for putting that agreement into practise, a draft which set annual payments of 480 mln dlrs. According to Almaty, the 115 mln dlrs were a fixed payment, not the whole sum Russia must pay Kazakhstan for its space facilities.

The RSA official, who had been directly involved in the drafting of the Moscow agreement, told Interfax that he was "at a complete loss" as to where the 480 million dollar figure, which completely altered the Moscow agreement, had come from.

However, he said it would be "premature to dispute the draft before the lease agreement itself had been ratified by the Russian and Kazakh parliaments and had come into force."

The official also said that RSA chief Yuriy Koptev would be contacting Kazakh Vice-Premier Galym Abilsiitov regarding the size of the lease payment for Baykonur.

Kazakh officials are currently putting the finishing touches to the document before referring it to Prime Minister Sergey Tereschenko on 23 May. They say the document should be ready for signing by the prime ministers of both countries on 15 June 1994.

However, the RSA said that date was unlikely.

Tajikistan

Tajik Subunits Withdrawn From CIS Peacekeeping Forces

LD2105205294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Tajik military subunits have been withdrawn from the collective peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan, Colonel General Valeriy Patrikeyev, commander of the collective peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan, said on Saturday.

At the same time, the commander reported that the term for the presence of peacekeeping forces in the republic had been extended until 31 December.

At present, the total number of CIS peacekeeping forces is 9,000 men less than previously planned. The commander expressed concern that Kazakhstan had not yet allocated its own battalion to join the forces.

Secretary of Newspaper Editorial Board Assassinated

LD1905155794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1359 GMT 19 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe 19 May TASS—Khushvakht Khaidarsho, secretary of the editorial board of the Tajik newspaper "DZHUMKHURIAT," was shot dead early on Thursday [19 May] near his home, ITAR-TASS learnt from competent sources.

A criminal case has been opened over the fact of the assassination. The motives of the crime are yet to be investigated. However, criminal or political mafia, against which the reporter came out in his publications, are not ruled out.

A wave of assassinations has swept the republic recently. Olim Abulov, an employee of the National Broadcasting Company, was riddled dead from a machine-gun on 17 May. Vladimir Nirma, head of the joint U.S.-Tajik enterprise "Interfer", was also shot dead from a machine-gun on 18 May.

Turkmenistan

Moscow TV Interviews President Niyazov

LD2205231094

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1120 GMT on 22 May carries in its "Live Dialogue" program a 40-minute interview from Ashgabat with Turkmen President Saparmurad Niyazov and members of the republic's leadership. The program is hosted by Ostankino Television announcer Andrey Skryabin.

Niyazov is shown seated at a desk in a large room with journalists seated at two rows of tables. After greeting the viewers, President Niyazov answers questions put by a number of journalists on, among other things, the the development of Turkmenistan, a Euro-Asian union, cooperation within CIS and bilateral relations, debts, social protection for the population, economic plans in the near future, privatization, trade unions, relations with the East, and state support for agriculture.

Niyazov welcomes the journalists and thanks them for showing a keen interest in the political and economic changes taking place in Turkmenistan. He then says:

"It is important that we see Russia not as a state that has already become separate, but as the main and leading force of the CIS, whose position strikes us very much by its equality, by mutually beneficial cooperation, by respect for the sovereignty of the independent states that have been formed. Therefore, we—all members of the government present here—cordially welcome you to Turkmenistan, and I am ready to reply to your questions."

Skryabin asks the first question: "What development concept do you adhere to? Which is the most acceptable to you for the development of your state?"

Niyazov replies: "We chose a secular, democratic path of development, which is laid down in our constitution. The constitution was discussed nationwide and was adopted by the mejlis after a referendum."

The next question is asked by Andrey Polishchuk from NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA: "Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev proposed not that long ago that a Euro-Asian union should be formed. I would like to know your personal point of view on that proposal."

Niyazov replies: "What is that Euro-Asian union? Does anybody know what sort of union that is? Is it just a sign to replace the CIS, or is it a new, natural kind of commonwealth or a new confederation? What is it? I simply do not see the mechanism, function, or task of that Euro-Asian union, and I fail to understand why a group arose immediately that supported it, a group that rejected it. But I can say just one thing: the CIS has begun to be formed as a community of independent states. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, it was very difficult to form independent states, to acquire political independence, economic independence, to establish every state. And the process is difficult now since we are so bound together by 70 years of economic ties we cannot tear ourselves away from one another. But that process must happen now. History cannot be turned back to its original stage. It's my opinion that everybody should cooperate with each other on equal and mutually beneficial terms, of course, without harming each other. It even occurs in families that brothers can have their own economic calculations, but one does not get by at the expense of the other.

"We support the strengthening of the Commonwealth of Independent States but on equal terms. Therefore, I think at the first stage there should be more concrete bilateral cooperation, bilateral agreements between the states of the CIS, and the CIS itself should through framework agreements determine overall direction. Therefore, objectively, it is simply unable to create strict structures now. We must take account of the realities. The Commonwealth should exist, but it has to go through a transitional stage in which each of us has to overcome difficulties and not on the basis of mutual accusations but taking account of the real interests of each. In this connection, I would like to say an economic court of the Commonwealth was formed. Today, the countries of the CIS owe Turkmenistan 1.3 billion dollars. Ukraine owes around 800 million dollars; Georgia owes more than 200 million dollars. Many countries owe us, but we are not issuing ultimatums, nor are we appealing to any courts to have a concrete solution to that. We realize all countries are going through an economic crisis. We simply ask that the debt is acknowledged and formulated through state agreements, that there is accountability. The former Union no longer exists. Today we are buying goods at world prices from all countries of the CIS, but when fuel and energy resources are at issue, a more casual approach is taken. Therefore, there should be equality in everything."

Correspondent Albert Belyayev from "Kultura" asks Niyazov about the role of culture in the political course pursued by Turkmenistan, and what percentage of the national budget is allocated for cultural purposes.

Niyazov replies: "I will tell you briefly that we must develop our national culture, and for that purpose, we allocate seven to 10 percent of the budget to culture." He adds that Turkmenistan had great respect for the Russian culture, which has had a very strong impact on it, but in his view every country should be able to absorb those aspects of the world culture that are the most appropriate to its traditions and customs.

He then is asked by Natalya Polezhayeva from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA whether the fact that there were numerous streets, villages, towns, and monuments dedicated to him did not indicate a beginning of a personality cult.

Niyazov replies: "I would like you to understand that a personality cult cannot emerge in a free society, with a market economy, private property, and other systems. There is no such thing. But I can tell you that since I started working in Turkmenistan in 1985 there was not a single arrest for political dissent. There is not a single political prison in Turkmenistan. There is no violence. Right now we are going through a transition period. And during a transition period there is a need for a national leader who, together with his like-minded allies, must carry out all these major state and social changes. I am not talking about myself. Maybe if there was someone else, the attitude would have been the same."

Correspondent Skryabin asks Niyazov about his portrait on the national currency and about his attitude to the celebration of his birthday as a national holiday.

Niyazov says: "I must tell you that we have had lengthy discussions about bank notes. There were proposals from the rank and file, but I was against it for a long time. There have been enough major figures in the 800-year history of Turkmenistan who could have been depicted on banknotes." He adds that unfortunately no realistic portraits of these figures have been left. And when a meeting of more than 1,000 Turkmen elders proposed to have his portrait on the national currency, Niyazov "took it as an honor, not flattery." "There is no need for false modesty. It was an honor for me that the elders have proposed to have my portrait on the national currency." He then adds that in fact it was not his portrait that was important to him, but rather the exchange rate of the national currency.

As for his birthday, Niyazov says he did not want and does not want any celebrations. He says he had even drafted a decree that would have banned the celebration of his birthday for the duration of his term in office. However, parliament has rejected it. He said he would still try to pass another law that would allow people, if they so wish, to celebrate his birthday after the end of his term in office.

Asked by Anatoliy Yurkov from RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA about social protection provisions in Turkmenistan, Niyazov says:

"From the first day of the creation of an independent Turkmenistan, we have decided to carry out reforms, state and structural changes only if they have no negative effect on the majority of the population. This is our main criteria. In the process of political and economic reform, we always measure everything against the social protection of the population. Within the first year we said to the people that everyone would have free gas and electricity. This is what we produce here, and this is what we can offer to other countries without depriving ourselves.

"The same thing with water. We have water and the possibility to provide the population with good drinking water free of charge. This is not luxury. Once we freed our people from this burden, it had the opportunity to use its income for other needs. At the same time we also had the opportunity to increase people's wages. But the state is not wasting the money either. We have cut our investment in the industry. We have told the industry to develop itself through profits. We only provide assistance to projects of national importance and profitability, such as the building of a railway from Turkmenistan to Iran, another railway from western Turkmenistan along the coastline to Russia, and another one from eastern Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, the building of new airports, new sea ports, and communications systems. I think that Turkmenistan will continue to develop its infrastructure, but only by using local raw materials, such as textiles, gas refining, chemical products, and agriculture. As for heavy machine-building, it does not make sense to build a tractor or a car plant, or an aircraft plant in Turkmenistan. It simply does not make economic sense."

Anatoliy Druzenko from IZVESTIYA then asks why, since all leaders of new independent states come from the socialist past and could have gotten together and sorted everything out, this is not happening.

Niyazov replies: "One must be a realist. There is no turning back. If we say that we are all independent, be it politically or economically, let us then have proper relations, rather then having a union and someone as a coordinator. It does not work anymore. There is no turning back. We may come to some sort of integration, but right now everyone must live through this disintegration. This is the most effective disintegration."

Niyazov then says everyone must live through this difficult period, but there must be a joint effort to make it work, rather than look for something new in the light of present difficulties.

He says: "We favor joint spiritual values, economic links, political links. We need them. But they must be civilized. I must tell you that the latest CIS meeting went very well, and many good decisions were taken. There was a divergence of opinions, however. We must take into consideration various opinions. We cannot force everyone to have the same opinion. I, as a representative of my nation, may have a different opinion on one or other question. So, why must I sign something I feel will not be accepted here? This is why we must not rush. The CIS is a slow process and will not spring up from a single resolution. It must remain voluntary and mutually beneficial."

Dmitriy Murzin from FINANSOVYE IZVESTIYA then asks Niyazov to outline his vision of the economic structure in Turkmenistan.

Niyazov says: "As for the internal economic structure, we are not in a hurry to implement privatization. We are afraid to privatize trade outlets in the first instance, as you did it in Moscow, because then state resources have to be pumped into these trade outlets since there are no producers. We have decided to create producers of goods in the first instance. We have already started privatizing public catering outlets and communal services. As for factories and plants, all works of up to 500 employees will be sold through auctions, to both foreigners and our own people, but with a guarantee to provide their own raw materials and to improve production for the next five years. They will have to abide by Turkmen laws and pay taxes. This suits us, because it creates jobs, the state receives an income, and like this the industry will be fully privatized. As for large enterprises of more than 500 to 1,000 employees, 50 percent of their shares will be sold off, while the state will retain the remaining shares for the next five years. We will sell off 49 percent of shares.

"We already have a large number of land owners, and we have also distributed more than 150,000 hectares of land. I am a land owner myself. I have 58 hectares of land. I plant and grow there. We have allowed members of the government and ministers to have private property."

He then adds that they have developed a number of laws to prevent ministers and other individuals in positions of power from using state assets and funds for personal gain.

"We are not destroying cotton growing and cattle breeding collective farms, some of which are very profitable, where employees have a high standard of living. These ones we will keep. However, all the unprofitable ones will be sold off. We are setting up new agricultural units. We can give up to 50 hectares of land to those who want new land. If an individual wants up to 500 hectares, he must sign a declaration that he will produce something on this land for at least two years, rather than leaving it to his children, while the money is there. No, this is not allowed."

Yuriy Sovtsov from TRUD asks then whether Niyazov envisages the role of emerging trade unions as his opponents or his supporters.

Niyazov replies: "It is true that trade unions had no tangible influence on every day life of workers. They may have had some political influence, but as far as workers' lives were concerned, this was well known all across the Union... [pauses]. There were no decent canteens or accommodation or any other proper service on factories, but no one took care of this. Instead, everyone was busy politicking. The link between grass route level trade unions and workers was severed. When the financial support disappeared they disintegrated somewhat as well. But a new trade unionist movement has been set up through membership contributions, which is self-sufficient, and workers have also become more demanding. Individual trade unions have been given new functions. They are in the process of being set up. We are supporting them, not financially but as a body that takes care."

Niyazov is then asked by Valentin Simonov from KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA to tell—honestly, if he can—whether he regards the absence of criticism of him in the local press as an advantage or as a hindrance to his state activities.

Niyazov says: "Not only I, but many others have difficulty accepting public criticism. We must be honest with ourselves. I do not accept personal criticism of, say, my tastes, but if I am criticized as a public figure for some mistakes in the economic or political management, I can accept it easily. These are two different things.

"But when personal insults are used to pad out public criticism, this is not normal criticism. Criticism must be civilised."

He then says that from his experience of traveling abroad, he can say he has never seen anywhere else the kind of criticism mated out by the media in Moscow. He goes on to say that this confused kind of intermingled criticism of personal and public qualities in political figures comes from the 70 years of Soviet rule. In his view, only when his ministers will not have to worry about their financial future—for example, become private owners of industrial or other estates—will they be able to think independently. He says:

"Even if I encourage criticism right now, they will not criticize me. Maybe five or 10 will. Therefore, it would be silly to artificially create criticism of myself. Does this mean that if I want to be called a democrat, I must create an opposition, pluralism, set up a multiparty system, create a group that will try to get to the top on the basis of the right to criticize, rather than on the basis of its own program, a program that would be to the benefit of the people?"

Nail Bikkenin from the journal SVOBODNAYA MYSL then asks him to explain how the specific characteristics of the East apply to Turkmenistan.

Replying to the question, Niyazov says that East and West had different cultural traditions and often did not understand each other. There were good and bad people both in the East and West, and it would be wrong to let the Russians' opinion of Turkmenistanis be influenced by stereotypes.

Aleksandr Lisin of VECHERNYAYA MOSKVA tells Niyazov that Muscovites are interested to know more about his personality and asks whether there is a politician or some other famous man whom he regards as his role model.

Niyazov says there is no single person who has influenced him in this way, but adds: "Since my childhood I have regarded as my ideal only the ideas of the Communist Party, and people should not be judged too severely for being impressed by them. But then I discovered that these ideas cannot be be implemented at the present stage and that our real mentality is very unlike the things we say."

He goes on to say that equality, peace, and cooperation will always remain mankind's great ideals.

Niyazov then says that when he joined the USSR Politburo in 1985, he used to admire Mikhail Gorbachev, but his attitude to that leader gradually changed by 1989-90. "I like certain things about Churchill's politics, some things about Mitterrand's, and some about Li Peng's. Generally speaking, for some reason, my only ideal is Friedrich Engels: when I read his works, I think they are logical and consistent, and he impresses me as a philosopher and political economist; he rather than Marx. That's about it."

The last question is from Aleksandr Kharlamov of SELSKAYA ZHIZN, who asks about Niyazov's attitude to state subsidies for agriculture.

Niyazov replies: "In Turkmenistan, we know that at this transitional stage, agriculture will not survive without subsidies. Profits from the sale of oil and gas should be redistributed. This happens in all civilized states. We should not say: this branch is not profit- making, so we shall close it down."

Skryabin then thanks Niyazov, who says in conclusion:

"Our way of political and economic development, our moral and cultural values are typical of our own people. I am not imposing them on you and not preaching them to you, just telling you about us. At the same time, we respect all states and their form of development, their political and economic reforms."

Thanking the journalists who attended the meeting, he adds:

"We regard Russia as a great country with which we shall maintain friendly relations whatever may happen. It is our long-term policy to respect the policy Russia has chosen and to cooperate with it on a mutually beneficial basis."

Armenia

Azeri Delegation Return From Moscow Talks Reported

NC1905113194 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0744 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Yerevan ("LRAGIR", "YERKIR" dailies), 05/19/94—The Azeri delegation retreated to Baku from Moscow negotiations. Nevertheless, Russian President's Envoy Kazimirov believes, this negotiations were a great success since Azerbaijan has already declared its acceptance of the agreement in general. Azerbaijan didn't sign the agreement because of "several poorly developed and incorrect topics."

The experts were amazed by the unexpected harsh approach of Russia to this problem. The commander of peace-making forces Kondratyev declared that Russia is not going to organize another meeting for Ministers of Defense. Continuing the declaration he said that if Azerbaijan refuses to sign this agreement, Russia will stop its mediation efforts for peaceful resolution of the problem.

Azerbaijan still didn't join the agreement by yesterday late in the evening. Nevertheless, it's clear that Baku will have to accept the agreement despite "several omissions," and most probably, Mamedrafi Mamedov will put his signature on this document in Baku.

According to "YERKIR", the Azeri Councillor on external policy Vafa Gulizade declared on 17 May that "the Azeri position is the same, and Karabakh conflict is to be resolved within CSCE framework." According to "ITAR-TASS," Gulizade rejected the information on Azerbaijan only accepting the Russian project, which stipulates stationing Russian troops in the conflict zone. He said this information is baseless, and commented on this as an attempt of pressing on Azerbaijan.

"We are not against collaboration with Russia, but the Armenian-Azeri conflict became international, and can only be resolved within CSCE framework, which member Russia is," Gulizade said.

Mamedov Cited on Cease-Fire

NC2105131794 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0717 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Yerevan ("GOLOS ARMENII" - Past), 05/21/94—The Azeri Defense Minister Mamadrafi Mamedov made a declaration on May 18, which particularly says:

"Mass media have been spreading rumors about the negotiations between the Armenian and Azeri Defense Ministers in Moscow. The Azeri Defense Ministry press service declares in this regard that a cease fire has been established as a result of negotiations allowing the sides to calmly work on the final document. As long as no agreement was reached on several points, this document wasn't signed. A group of experts is currently working on it, and when they are finished, a new meeting between the Russian, Azeri and Armenian Defense Ministers will be organized.

A relative calmness established at the several sections of the front during the last few days. Nevertheless, several our positions have been shelled. The village of Sadarak in Nakhichevan was shelled during the night of May 18. In all cases the Azeri side didn't return the fire."

Mamedov arrived to Moscow again on May 19, and met Russian Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondrayev. No details about the meeting are available.

Azerbaijan Reportedly Violating Cease-Fire

NC2005171494 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The opposing sides in the Nagorno-Karabakh front line have refrained from launching intensive combat operations. However, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Defense Army Press Service has disclosed that over the past few days Azerbaijan has violated the relatively peaceful situation. That republic's military forces have been firing on the NKR defense positions. For example, this morning Azerbaijani units fired on the NKR positions in the northeastern part of the confrontation lines with mortars. The Armenian side remains committed to the cease-fire agreement and has held back from returning the fire.

Meanwhile, the Armenian Ministry of Defense Press Service has disclosed that the relatively peaceful situation in the northeastern part of Armenia was disrupted again yesterday. The defense positions around Vagashen in Idzhevanskiy Rayon were fired on with infantry combat vehicles at 1405. No one was hurt.

The same source also noted that no other incidents occurred on Armenia's border last night and this morning.

Military Situation 'Placid'

NC2105110694 Yerevan SNARK in English 0727 GMT 21 May 94

["Karabakh Is Placid"—SNARK headline]

[Text] Stepanakert, 21 May (SNARK)—Military situation has not changed essentially in the Karabakh confrontation areas. As SNARK newsman was told in the NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] Information and Press Department, the relative calmness that has settled there is preserved. Confrontation parties abstain from any military activity.

Shelling Continues Despite Lull

NC2105114594 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0617 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Stepanakert ("LRAGIR", "AZG", "YERKIR" dailies), 05/21/94—Despite absence of active military operations at the fronts, the Azeri army continues shelling the Karabakh positions.

The RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] Defense Army headquarters report, the enemy shelled, using 120mm mortars and machine guns, the Karabakh positions at the villages of Seisulan and Hasanghaya in the Mardakertskiy District and Giulistan in the Shahumyanskiy District in the morning of May 20.

At the same time, the enemy opened fire in the direction of the villages of Gyuluja, Suma and Bashkyarvend in the Agdamskiy District and Karakhanbeyli in the Fizulinskiy District. No victims are reported. The Karabakh Armed Forces refrained from returning the fire.

Chairman of the Martuninskiy District Council Vazgen Karibyan informed a "HAYLOUR" correspondent, a significant concentration of Azeri manpower and equipment is reported in the environs of the Omar Gorge. An extensive Azeri offensive is expected in this direction.

Yerevan ("AZG", "YERKIR" dailies), 05/21/94 — The Azeri units, stationed in the Kazakh district of Azerbaijan, shelled the Armenian defense positions at the villages of Vazashen in the Idzhevanskiy District of Armenia at 2:05 pm on May 19. The Armenian frontier forces refrained from returning the fire.

The villages of Vaghanis, Voskepar and Voskevan in the Noyemberyanskiy District were shelled at 6:40 pm on May 20. Currently, there is no information about the consequences. By 7 pm, the shelling was continuing.

'No Serious Changes' on Fronts

NC2005113394 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0824 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Stepanakert ("LRAGIR", "AZG" dailies), 05/20/94—There have been no serious changes at the Karabakh fronts for a week. The sides are refraining from active military operations. Nevertheless, the Azeris continue shelling the Armenian defense positions at different sections of the front.

The RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] Defense Army Headquarters report, the enemy shelled the Karabakh positions at the villages of Seisulan, Karmiravan, Gasangaya and Levonarkh in the Mardakertskiy district in the morning of May 19. No casualties are reported.

Two hours later, the Azeri armored personnel carriers shelled the Karabakh positions at the villages of Bashkyarvend, Gyuluja, Suma and Umudlu in the Agdamskiy district. Again, no casualties are reported. Meanwhile, the enemy shelled the Karabakh positions at the Umar gorge and at the villages of Karakanbeyli and Kurgan.

At 6pm the enemy shelled, using large caliber machine guns, the Armenian positions at the village of Giulistan in the Shaumyaninskiy district.

Baburyan Says Karabakh To 'Do Its Best' for Stability

NC2105120794 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0617 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Yerevan ("LRAGIR", "AZG" dailies), 05/21/94—Commenting on the results of negotiations in Moscow, Acting Chairman of the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] Supreme Council Karen Baburyan said that "Azerbaijan is trying to fail (the implementation) of Russian and other projects, clearly understanding that stationing of disengagement troops in the conflict zone would be a serious obstacle for restarting military operations against Mountainous Karabakh. Nevertheless, all conditions necessary for stopping the war are present today, and peace completely depends on the will of the Azeri Government. Karabakh will do its best to reach stability in the region."

The RMK military observers believe Baku is trying to build an image that Russia is unable to create peace in Transcaucasia. Therefore, the declaration of Russian Deputy Defense Minister Georgiy Kondratyev about Russia having to stop the mediation efforts, if Azerbaijan doesn't sign the agreement, is quite understandable.

Meeting With Nakhichevan Delegation at Border Reported

NC2105204394 Yerevan SNARK in English 1011 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Yerevan, 21 May (SNARK)—Border incidents preventing measures were discussed yesterday at the meeting of Armenian and Nakhichevan delegations.

As SNARK was told today in the Armenian Defense Ministry, Azerbaijan side has acknowledged that tension at the border is sometimes caused by Nakhichevan combat units which thus try to justify their unwillingness to fight in Karabakh. Nakhichevan representatives also consider possible the provocations by Peoples Front of Azerbaijan attempting to destabilize the situation in Nakhichevan Republic.

Negotiating parties agreed to undertake adequate measures to prevent the possible border incidents.

There were no serious incidents along the entire Armenian border during the last day, informed the Defense Department.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Crimea

NC2005191494 Yerevan SNARK in English 1253 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Yerevan, May 20 (SNARK) A protocol on trade-economic cooperation between Crimea and Armenia is signed in Simferopol.

The press-center of the Armenian Government told SNARK an agreement on establishing an Association "Crimea-Armenia Trade House" was reached between Industry Minister Ashot Safaryan and President Yuri Meshkov. The Association will have offices in Yerevan and Simferopol.

During the Armenian minister's to Crimea [as received], the sides discussed questions of mutual airports granting for transit flights and using Crimean ports for shipment to Armenia.

The Armenian side expressed her readiness to take part in the state program of Armenians' return to Crimea, deported 50 years ago.

Kocharyan Describes Talks

LD2105170894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1131 GMT 21 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Stepanakert, 21 May —Robert Kocharyan, chairman of the State Committee for the Defence of Nagorno Karabakh, has said that the Nagorno Karabakh republic and the Crimean republic intend to "be persistent in implementing the accords reached". He told a news conference today about the results of the visit to the Crimean Peninsula by an official Nagorno Karabakh delegation.

A communique on the results of the meeting has been signed between the Nagorno Karabakh republic and the Crimean republic, as well as an agreement on trade and economic and cultural cooperation.

It is envisaged that there will be an exchange of representative offices and that privileges will be granted on transit freight and other things. On the political level, the sides came to agreement on coordinating actions, and also on possible joint steps in respect of a political settlement of the problems facing the two republics. Crimea's President Yuriy Meshkov may make a visit to Nagorno Karabakh in return.

Evaluating the current situation in Crimea, Robert Kocharyan commented that this was an attempt by the Ukrainian leadership to oppose any deepening of Crimean sovereignty. Karabakh has already passed this stage, and in Robert Kocharyan's view, this will have a consequence for Crimea and will only strengthen its sovereignty.

Azerbaijan

Villages in Kazakh Region Shelled

LD2105152094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1244 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] The border villages of the Kazakh region in the northwest of Azerbaijan came under "intensive fire" from guns and tanks from the side of the Armenian village of Voskepar on Friday night, the press service of the Azeri Defense Ministry reported.

The shelling inflicted damage to the villages of Gushchu-Airym and Mazam. Several civilians were wounded.

Also on Saturday the village of Sadarak and the border strip of the Shakhbuzsky region of the Nakhichevan autonomous republic were shelled from the Armenian territory.

According to the Azeri Defense Ministry, "Armenian troops carry out planned destruction of houses, communications, historical monuments in the city of Agdam and a number of seized villages of the Agdam region."

Aliyev Seeks Peace, Condemns Opposition

LD2205180994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1545 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] The Azerbaijani leadership seeks peace, Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev stated at a meeting with refugees from the Karabakh Region on Saturday. His address to the refugees was televised.

Aliyev said that the Azerbaijani leadership had been maintaining contacts with the CSCE and the Russian leaders in order to ensure permanent ceasefire and to eliminate the consequences of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict.

Aliyev commented on relations with the opposition and on its reaction to the Bishkek protocol. "The leadership made the right move having signed this protocol. For Baku it meant only ceasefire," he emphasized.

Aliyev condemned activities of the opposition deputies who had recently left the parliament and had organized a rally in Baku on Saturday. "Political parties should not act through rallies and mass actions of protest. They must consult the official bodies and interact with them," he pointed out.

Aliyev announced that people had been sending telegrams and calling from many Azerbaijani regions asking for an opportunity to come to Baku and to settle the accounts with the opposition. He said the fear of the opposition that Russian troops could be brought to Azerbaijan was in vain. "No Russian troops will be brought to Azerbaijan," Aliyev reassured.

Press Secretary of the National Independence opposition party (led by Etibar Mamedov) Rauf Mirgadyrov suggested in an interview with Interfax that after his statement Aliyev would have practically no chance to achieve any accord with the opposition.

Aliyev Says Russian Troops Not To Be Called In

LD2205195694 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Russian Federation troops will not be brought into Azerbaijan, President Geydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan has declared. He denied opposition accusations that the country might lose its sovereignty. According to Aliyev, political parties should consult and interact with the official bodies instead of holding rallies and mass protest actions. The Azerbaijani leader reiterated that the authorities acted correctly in signing the Bishkek protocol on a cease-fire.

Meanwhile, the situation in the conflict zone remains relatively calm. The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reports only rare cases of shelling of its territory from Armenia.

The headquarters of the Azerbaijani National Independence Party has been raided. The premises were blockaded by 200 policemen, who announced they intended to find weapons. However, the press service of the republican Interior Ministry refuses to comment on this report, saying it knows nothing about the incident.

Opposition Parties Form National Resistance Movement

LD2005161794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1120 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Twenty-two Azeri opposition parties formed a national resistance movement on May 19 in Baku.

Their leaders met at the headquarters of the National Independence party. They said the movement was formed to counter "all attempts to introduce a Russian or Commonwealth army contingent in Azerbaijan."

The movement is to work to protect democracy and Azerbaijan's sovereignty and insure the return of the Armenian-occupied Azeri territories, the restoration of the republic's territorial integrity and the inviolability of the national frontiers.

According to preliminary reports, the national resistance movement is planning to hold a rally on May 21 to protest the possible introduction of Russian or Commonwealth peacekeepers in Azerbaijan.

A peacekeeping contingent can be introduced in Azerbaijan under a protocol that was discussed, under Russian mediation, by the Armenian and Azeri Defense Ministers and the commander of the Karabakh defense forces earlier this week. The Azeri minister refused to sign the protocol. The Azeri leaders link its signing to the conclusion of a comprehensive political agreement on Nagorni Karabakh. In their view, the captured territories must be returned to Azerbaijan, the refugees must be repatriated and moves must be made to revive the Karabakh economy.

Police Raid Opposition Party Headquarters

LD2105173594 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Today, about 30 policemen burst into the headquarters of the Musavat opposition party in Baku. All those on the premises were beaten up with truncheons and several people were arrested, including Musavat General Secretary Niyazi Ibrahimov. According to eyewitnesses, 40 to 50 people in all were detained.

The National Resistance Movement was planning to hold an anti-government meeting at 1500 on Freedom Square. Approximately an hour before this, the whole square was cordoned off by police. The police beat up with truncheons those who had gathered to take part in the rally, and tens of people were detained. At present all the buildings within a one kilometer radius of the square are being combed and searched by the police.

Deputies Leave Assembly Meeting Over Bishkek

NC2005202094 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] During the National Assembly meeting under President Geydar Aliyev yesterday, a group of deputies called for a debate on the Bishkek protocol and proposed that it be included on the meeting's agenda. It will be recalled that the media gave significant coverage to the protocol for many days.

The speaker of the parliament outlined his position by saying that a debate on the protocol is unnecessary, that a lengthy debate had already been held. The debate of the protocol was not included on the agenda, and seventeen deputies walked out of the meeting. Commenting on the matter, Deputy Kamuran Rakhimov said the following:

[Begin Rakhimov recording] Creating a confrontation when our country and people are faced with complex problems is meaningless. The Bishkek protocol and the effects it will have on Azerbaijan's future were discussed at the meeting. It was noted that the protocol's main objective is to end the fighting. That is in the interest of all the people in Azerbaijan. How long should we prolong the war? How long should we witness the death of our young men and attend the funerals of the martyrs? So, the main objective should be to end the war and establish peace. In fact, that is the Bishkek protocol's main objective.

The walk-out by a group of deputies from the National Assembly cannot be justified in any way. I am convinced that they will realize that state of affairs. [end recording]

Georgia

Abkhazians Reportedly Concentrating Troops in Gali

LD2005193594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1815 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Interfax learned Friday at the press center of the Georgian Defense Ministry that more than 500 Abkhaz fighters were concentrated in the Gali region. The number is constantly increasing. There is also a high concentration of military technology. The center reported it had evidence to show that in the night of May 20-21 Abkhazia was planning wide scale operations to put an end to the peace talks and provoke a new escalation of the conflict.

The Georgian Defense Ministry calls on the leaders of Abkhaz armed formations to withhold from any military actions which could lead to renewed bloodshed.

Situation Remains Stable

LD2105080794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0718 GMT 21 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Dzyublo]

[Text] Moscow May 21 TASS—The situation in the Galskiy District where, according to the Georgian Defence Ministry, concentration of Abkhazian troops was registered on Friday, has not changed, Georgian Defence Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze said in an exclusive telephone interview with ITAR-TASS on Saturday.

According to the minister, the situation "is closely monitored", and no additional massing of troops and combat materiel was registered.

As the Georgian Defence Minstry reported earlier, the concentration of armed groups numbering over 500 and an increase in combat materiel were registered in the upper zone of the Galskiy District on Friday.

However, apprehensions about "a planned large-scale operation" have not been confirmed so far.

Tbilisi Denies Armed Clashes in Inguri River

LD2005201294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1815 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] An officer from the Georgian Defense Ministry press center said in an interview with Interfax that the reports on the armed clashes between the Georgian and Abkhazian formations in the Inguri River on May 19 evening given by the Abkhazian military departments was "more misinformation."

The Georgian Defense Ministry press center affirmed that yesterday there had been no military action on the line of confrontation between the Georgian and Abkhazian troops. The same source suggested that the misinformation was aimed at torpedoing the peace settlement and hampering the return of Georgian refugees to Abkhazia.

The Abkhazian Defense Ministry announced this morning that two Georgian formations had tried to break through the Abkhazian troops near the Inguri River Hydro Electric Power Station. The Georgian formations had met resistance and had been forced to retreat. One Abkhazian soldier was killed and two wounded.

As a result all Abkhazian armed forces were put on alert.

The Abkhazian government stated that there had been more provocations on the part of Georgia. A total of seven Abkhazian servicemen had been killed by Georgian sabotage militants in May alone.

The Abkhazian government stressed that such actions were violating the Moscow agreements and laying the peace settlement open to violations.

Abkhazian Constitution To Be Adopted at Referendum

LD2305134894 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1100 GMT 23 May 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 23 May (IBERIA)—A so-called constitutional commission of Abkhazia has completed its work on Abkhazia's new constitution. It stipulates that Abkhazia is a sovereign state founding its relations with Georgia on agreements based on equality. Separatists intend to have the constitution adopted at a referendum held after Georgian refugees return to the Abkhazian region.

Defense Minister Orders Patrols of Garrisons

LD2205135894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1245 GMT 22 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 22 May—Georgia's Defense Minister Lieutenant General Vardiko Nadibaidze issued instructions today on the introduction of military patrols in places where all six of the republic's military garrisons are deployed—Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Rustavi, Akhaltsikhe, Telavi, and Gori.

This measure, adopted by the recent deputy commander of the Group of Russian Forces in the Caucasus, is aimed at preventing crimes by the rank and file and officer corps of the Georgian Army.

The situation as far as violations of the law is concerned is complicated by the fact that there are no legislative acts in Georgia regulating the ownership of short-barrelled weapons. Thus, citizens have free access to pistols and revolvers.

Shevardnadze Urges Unity on Georgian Independence Day

LD2105204194 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 21 May 94

[Excerpts] Here is what Eduard Shevardnadze said at the meeting in the parliament hall dedicated to the festivities to be held on Georgia's Independence Day.

[Begin Shevardnadze recording]] This will be a demonstration of what our troops are, what guarantees we have to defend our statehood if needed. [passage omitted]

I would like to ask the organizers of the festivities to pay specil heed to refugees in Tbilisi as well in other places. Unfortunately, we are not rich but a kind word and basic concern can be spared in order that the refugees can feel that this is their celebration and their festival and that the Georgian state is concerned with their interest and is ready to protect each of its citizen and every family. [passage indistinct] We have taken an immense commitment. I request everyone to get to work. If our intentions do not come true and we fail to justify all hopes and redeem a promise given to our people and refugees in the first instance, a day will come when we will have to answer to these people for everything. That is why posing any obstacles is inadmissible today. The authorities must be given an opportunity to bring their endeavor to an end. The aim of all of us, including parties and political forces who are raging a battle against the authorities, is to secure a positive completion of the cause. Their target is the same. I do not believe that they are fighting to overthrow the government. They are fighting for a safe return of refugees, for getting guarantees of security. They doubt that ours is the right way. But only time can show whether the way is right or wrong. Therefore, while discussing this issue today, I have regarded it necessary to say a few words about this.

I request all political parties, their leaders, members of parliament and leaders of public organizations to participate in these festive arrangements actively. [passage omitted]

Lack of hope can drive the country to destruction. Our whole history has been a struggle for freedom, for independence, for hope. The hope saved Georgia. I appeal to all political parties to establish this hope on 26 May and let us all try to demonstrate unity and integrity for the sake of the country.

Liberal-Democrats Oppose CIS Membership

AU1905160894 Tbilisi 7 DGHE in Georgian 13-19 May 94 p 8

[Mirian Lebanidze article: "The Liberal-Democrats Have Joined the Opposition"]

[Text] A year and a half has passed since the second national elections in Georgia. The fall of Gagra [in Abkhazia] was the first serious blow to Eduard Shevardnadze's prestige. Since then, the head of state's popularity has been on the decline. He has bequeathed the return of Abkhazia and the restoration of [Georgia's] statehood to "grateful generations" and united a fragmented Georgia to the CIS.

Joining the CIS has thinned out the parliamentary majority. On 5 May, the Liberal-Democratic National Party [LDNP] declared itself as [part of] the opposition. Party leader Batoni Mikheil Naneishvili delivered a report to Parliament in which he exposed the incorrectness of the political course chosen by Shevardnadze.

Joining the CIS became the main reason for the Liberals' dissatisfaction. Their first protest followed the statement made by Speaker of Parliament Goguadze [on the necessity of Georgia joining the CIS]. "We felt that this idea was not implanted in him by the Holy Ghost," stated Batoni Naneishvili (in a speech delivered in Parliament, he assessed such an action by a deputy as a "minor prank").

The Liberal-Democrats had earlier been united with the Greens Party in an alliance of "liberals" and were viewed as supporters of the head of state, although, as Naneishvili said, they had often criticized Shevardnadze in private. Following the events connected with joining the CIS, their party was completely ignored. In spite of Naneishvili's statements, no one paid any attention to them. They, however, continued to wait and are still waiting for the government to see the results of the mistakes that have been made.

The LDNP previously kept in the background. On 5 May, they decided to emerge from the shadows.

In Naneishvili's statement of 5 May it is stated that the personnel policy chosen by the head of state is unable to satisfy the demands of the state. The Cabinet of Ministers approved by him is unable to conduct reforms. It is made up of old appointees who are used to "doing nothing." Shevardnadze and his government are demanding the restoration and expansion of "old ties," which the LDNP views as absurd: They are creating an association of enslaving ties characteristic of the Soviet period. Naneishvili called the policy being conducted by the head of state and his supporters as "reactionary."

Following such a non-liberal statement, the LDNP is demanding, first and foremost, that Georgia leaves the CIS. They believe that it is necessary to follow a completely different political course, one that will be totally dissociated from the CIS. It is Mikheil Naneishvili's belief that it will be possible for Georgia to free itself completely from Russia's influence if the government shows itself to be resolute and if it orients itself toward the West.

The LDNP has distanced itself from those supporting the government but it has also been unable to side with the opposition. According to Naneishvili, they have found themselves between the devil and the deep blue sea: They criticize Shevardnadze but do not demand his resignation. They are hoping to see something undone that cannot be undone. The Liberals remain liberals.

Troops Not Seen as Guarantor of Refugees' Return

LD2005141194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1101 GMT 20 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Tbilisi May 20 TASS—More than 62 per cent of Georgian residents surveyed recently by the newspaper SVOBODNAYA GRUZIA (FREE GEORGIA) answered negatively when asked if they considered the Russian-dominated CIS peace-keeping troops a reliable guarantee of the safe return of refugees to Abkhazia.

The newspaper's survey, published on Friday, had the goal of determining Georgian society's opinion of the four-sided agreement on a ceasefire and withdrawal of forces, which was signed in Moscow on May 14. Twenty per cent of the inhabitants of Tbilisi and Georgia answered positively to the above question, while about 15 per cent did not express an opinion.

Russia, Georgia To Settle Border, Customs Problems

LD2205140894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1309 GMT 22 May 94

[Text] Russia and Georgia have concentrated on settling border and customs problems. Chairman of Georgia's Border Department Viktor Lordkipanidze told Interfax that a special Georgian commission was set up to demarcate the border between Russia and Georgia.

He also announced that the economic border with customs offices was to be defined next week. The Georgian customs office will be located in Gantiadi and the Russian one in Adler. The motorway customs offices will be located in Gantiadi, Roki, Mamisoni and Kazbegi (Georgia) and in Adler, Nizhni Zaramag and Verkhny Lars (Russia).

Lordkipanidze also said that talks were underway on the demarcation of the state border. The final variant will be chosen with due account taken of both countries' interests, he said.

He said that the customs offices would be opened in the near future, perhaps earlier than a political decision on the issue would be taken.

Estonia

Government Agrees on Dismissal of Defense Minister

LD1905134294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] At the meeting on Thursday early in the morning, the Estonian Government agreed with the proposal of Prime Minister Mart Laar on relieving Indrek Kannik from his post of Defense Minister. On Friday the prime minister will submit the application to the country's president Lennart Meri, Interfax was told by the government's press secretary Ain Saarna.

Indrek Kannik is accused of splitting the Cabinet of Ministers and inability to carry out ongoing contacts with members of the ruling coalition.

The leadership of the ruling party "Isamaa - Pro Patria" at the meeting on Wednesday proposed that the government resign to put an end to internal differences in the Cabinet However, the party's parliamentary faction decided to dismiss only the defense minister.

Local observers believe that a resignation is also forthcoming from Justice Minister Kaido Kama.

Defense, Justice Ministers Reportedly Submit Resignations

WS1905145194 Tallinn ETA in English 1353 GMT 19 May 94

["News Release"]

[Excerpt] Estonian Defence Minister Indrek Kannik and Justice Minister Kaido Kama handed in their resignations to Prime Minister Mart Laar at an emergency cabinet session Wednesday [18 May] night, the government's spokesman Ain Saarna told ETA on Thursday. Both Ministers were to present their resignations to President Lennart Meri on Thursday.

The parliamentary faction of the ruling Fatherland had on Wednesday agreed to Laar's proposition to dismiss Kannik.

On Thursday, other coalition parties were to discuss further work of the government, Saarna said.

The coalition board met to discuss the situation in the government. Their standpoint is that all government ministers should immediately inform of their possible intentions to resign. Clarity is necessary not only to the government, but also the nation, the board said. [passage omitted]

Three Coalition Ministers Say They Will Stay

LD1905152494 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Roads and Communications Minister Andi Meister, Interior Minister Heiki Arike, and Population Minister Peeter Olesk have stated that they will continue work in the government on the basis of the [1992] coalition agreement. These ERSP [Estonian National Independence Party] ministers said in a statement which they sent to the radio that they understand the need to prevent a power vacuum at a critical time for the state of Estonia. They made this decision taking into account the positions expressed at the joint meeting of the ERSP board and its Riigikogu faction.

Meri Statement Indicates Displeasure With Laar

LD2005120694 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1100 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] The presidential press service forwarded to Estonian Radio a statement by President Lennart Meri in response to the joint statement from the Riigikogu speaker and the prime minister. According to the joint statement issued by Riigikogu Speaker Ulo Nugis and Prime Minister Mart Laar, the president's welcoming speech [on 17 May] to the diplomatic corps accredited to Estonia did not reflect the official position of the Republic of Estonia.

President Lennart Meri notes with regret in his response that the prime minister's attempt to embroil the Riigikogu speaker in political games may turn the current government crisis into a constitutional crisis. The president states the text of the welcoming speech was drafted by Toivo Klaar, head of the Foreign Ministry's foreign policy department, at his request and with the knowledge of the foreign minister. According to the president, this fact could not have been unknown to Prime Minister Laar, and if it was, it is a sign of impermissible shortcomings within the state apparatus. The president considers particularly dangerous for the Estonian national security policy the fact that five days before the conference of the foreign ministers of the countries on the Baltic Sea, the prime minister has begun to resolve the government crisis with foreign policy arguments, involving top state officials and incomplete information.

In his statement the president says a government crisis is a customary manifestation of parliamentary democracy. The president considers it impermissible to set party political interests above the national interest of the Republic of Estonia.

President Receives Russian Ambassador, Conducts Talks

WS2005113994 Tallinn BNS in English 1029 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 20, BNS—President Lennart Meri on Thursday [19 May] received Russian Ambassador to

Estonia Alexander Trofimov, the president's press service told BNS. The ambassador informed Meri that Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev is going to take part in the upcoming Baltic Council foreign ministers' conference in Tallinn. A time was set for a meeting between Meri and the Russian foreign minister.

Meri hoped the forthcoming conference offers a good chance to drop from the agenda and regard as closed the issue of military retirees. Under Estonian legislation, military pensioners are issued residence permits in accordance with the aliens law and the government order annexed to it. The applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The president suggested that, on humanitarian grounds, the procedure might begin with the eldest applicants.

According to Trofimov's information, there are at present 5,170 Russian military retirees residing in Estonia aged 60 and over; the 50-59 age group comprises 3,870 people; and 1,660 retired military are below 50 years of age. The Russian ambassador announced that 43,000 aliens residing in Estonia have Russian citizenship.

The parties also exchanged thoughts about the activity to date of the Remigration Fund, the president's press service informs.

Foreign Ministry Wants Closer Links With Caucasian States

WS2305102394 Tallinn BNS in English 1601 GMT 21 May 94

[Text] Moscow, May 21, BNS—An Estonian Foreign Ministry delegation headed by Deputy Chancellor Raul Malk made May 20-21 a working visit to the Armenian capital Yerevan. The Foreign Ministries of the two countries reached agreement on signing in the near future an accord on consultations.

A joint statement of the Estonian and the Armenian foreign ministries says that the accord will "establish a legal and contractual basis for cooperation in different spheres."

Malk held negotiations with Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Jirair Liparitian, the chairman of the Armenian Central Bank Bagrat Asatrian and Deputy Economics Minister Armen Darbinian.

The Foreign Ministries inform that an Estonian-Armenian agreement on cooperation in economy and trade has been coordinated and prepared for signing. Drafting of a treaty on non-commercial payments is in progress.

The Estonian delegation toured the Caucasian states from May 16 to 21. In the course of the visit agreements with the Azerbaijani and the Georgian Foreign Ministries were signed.

Foreign Ministry Delegation Visits

LD2005162894 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 20 May 94

[Text] An Estonian Foreign Ministry delegation is on a tour to the countries in the Caucasus this week. On 17 May, Foreign Ministry Deputy Chancellor Raul Malk and Azerbaijani Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Salamnov signed an agreement on consultations between the two countries' foreign ministries. The Estonian delegation also met Azerbaijani Trade Minister Ridvan Huseynov and . discussed with him prospects for trade between the two countries.

Since 18 May, the delegation has been holding talks in Georgia. During the [word indistinct] discussions at the Georgian Foreign Ministry, both countries' topical foreign policy issues were discussed including the international aspects of the Abkhaz conflict and the Russian troop withdrawal from Estonia. Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandre Chikvaidze and Estonian Foreign Ministry Deputy Chancellor Raul Malk signed an agreement on cooperation between the two countries' foreign policy departments. Today, the Estonian delegation will be meeting Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze. In the afternoon, the delegation will leave Tbilisi for Yerevan where an agreement on cooperation between the foreign ministries is due to be signed.

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